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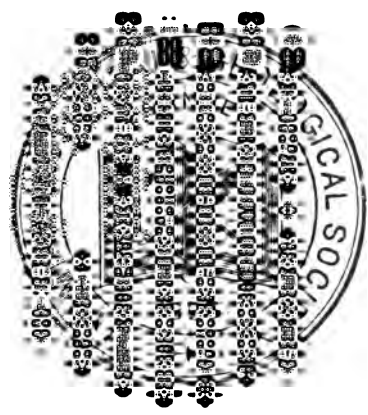




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# In Memoriam.

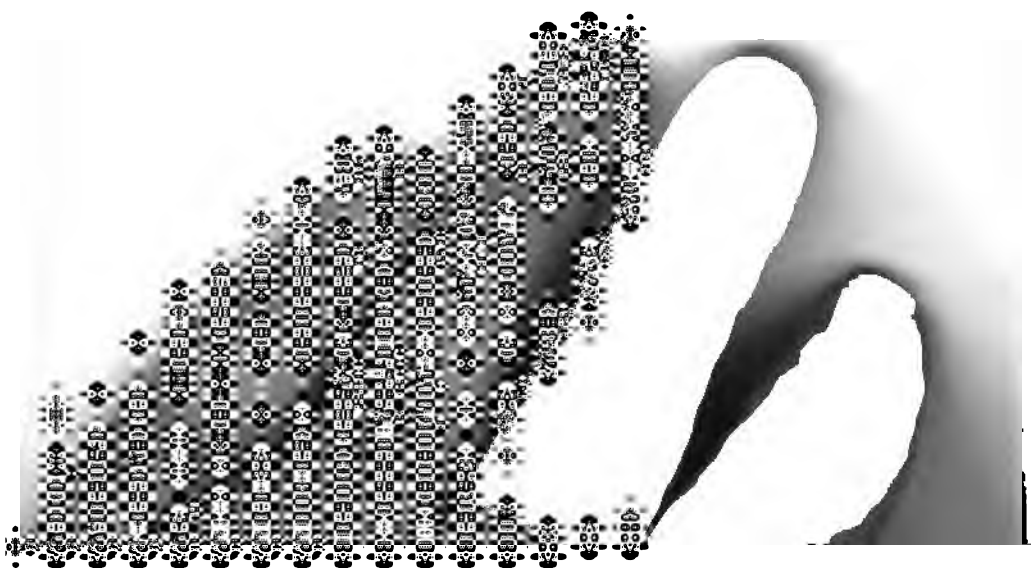
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HARRISON WRIGHT, A. M., PH. D.

LATE RECORDING SECRETARY OF THE  
WYOMING HISTORICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, AND MEMBER OF  
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

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*Nemo parum diu vixit, qui virtutis perfectæ perfecto functus  
est munere.—Cicero.*



*Wyoming Historical & Geol. Society*  
*gift*  
*3-28-1928*

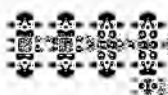
## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

### PART FIRST.

	PAGE
Introductory Note—The Publishing Committee . . . . .	9
Wyoming Historical and Geological Society—Proceedings:	
Resolutions—C. Ben Johnson . . . . .	13
Biographical Sketch—Geo. B. Kulp . . . . .	18
Brief Review, Literary Work of Harrison Wright, Ph. D. —Sheldon Reynolds, M. A. . . . .	81
Poem—D. M. Jones . . . . .	94

### PART SECOND.

Luzerne County Bar—Proceedings . . . . .	99
Trustees of the Osterhout Free Library—Resolutions . . . . .	115
Historical Society of Pennsylvania—Proceedings . . . . .	117



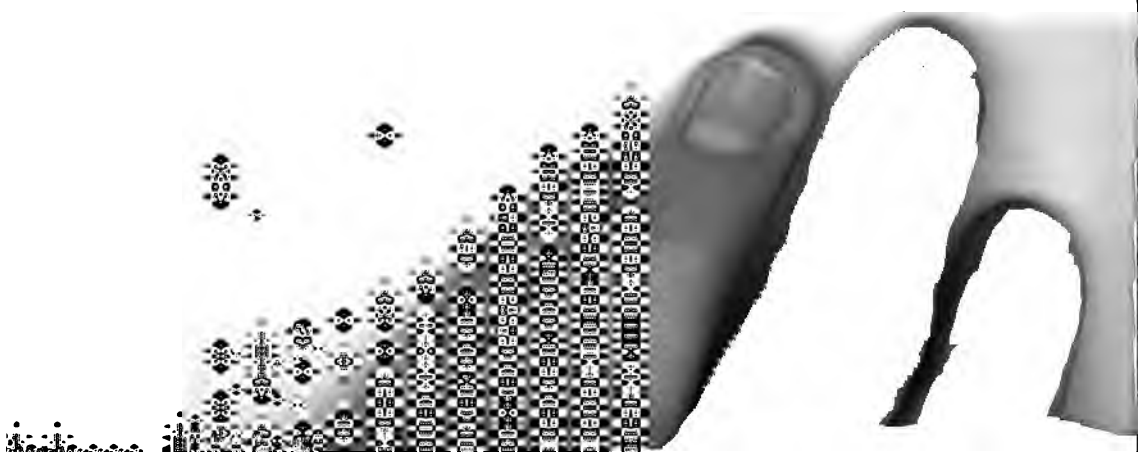
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ANDREW H. McCLINTOCK.

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## PART I.



## INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

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At the meeting of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, held the 8th day of May, 1885, the President formally announced the death of Harrison Wright, late the Secretary and one of the Trustees of the Society. The regular order of business having been dispensed with, the Committee on Resolutions, previously appointed, presented a preamble and resolutions, which were duly adopted. Then followed the reading of a biographical essay by the Historiographer, and other papers commemorative of the life, character and work of our deceased friend. At the conclusion, on motion, the several essays and papers were referred to the Publishing Committee, with instructions to collate and publish the same, together with the expressions of such other societies and bodies as had taken action on the sad event. The Committee, having performed the duties assigned to it, herewith presents this memorial volume, which, it is hoped, may be deemed a not unfitting tribute to the virtues and character of one, who, by the purity of his life, his uniformly unselfish conduct, his sym-

MEMORIAM.

talents and unusual disposition and his genial and  
generous companionship, gained the respect and love  
of all who knew him; and whose thorough scholarship,  
united with an exceptional capacity of vigorous appli-  
cation, gave promise of a most useful and brilliant  
future.

THE PUBLICATION COMMITTEE.

WILKES-BARRE, PA., 1886.



# **In Memoriam.**

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**HARRISON WRIGHT, A. M., PH. D.**

Died, February 20, A. D. 1885.



## RESOLUTIONS.

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[C. BEN JOHNSON, Esq., Chairman of the Committee on Resolutions,  
presented the following:]

Rich in epithet of affection and endearment as we esteem our English language to be, we find its possibilities but feeble and limited in the endeavor to express our sense of the loss of our dear companion and friend.

Harrison Wright is dead!

To those who knew him, as it was the privilege of the members of this society to know him, these words came a message so unexpected and startling that their full and sad significance could not be immediately realized.

Save only in those moments, which come to each of us, filled with the solemn reflection that one day all our spirits will be freed and all our poor, fragile bodies will return to that Mother Earth of whose dust they are molded, we had never associated Harrison Wright with the thought of death. Not only was he in outward semblance, in physical and mental energy and force of character endowed in a larger degree with what we call life than most men, but to us he was

always present as the heart of the life of this society. Many of us have been laborers in its ranks, and have given our time and attention towards its advancement in the cause of historical and scientific enlightenment. But what our occasional impulses of interest and activity to his constancy of devotion and tireless efforts! What our casual endeavors, who make of these studies a mere incident of our lives, to the thorough work and unstinted application of one to whom they were a continuous and absorbing pursuit! One who had become the Society's other self, who held no labor demanded of him too severe to be performed, no concession of time and means too great to be exacted, and whose only reward came in the assurance that thereby the purpose and the good name of the Society were subserved.

Harrison Wright returned in 1872, from Germany, where, at the University of Heidelberg, through careful application aided by inherited genius, he had gained high honors. Almost immediately afterwards he became the Recording Secretary of this society, and in that position he continued until the day of his death.

In addition to the duties of Recording Secretary he had undertaken the general supervision of the several departments of the Society. He applied himself to the determination of the specimens in the Mineralogical cabinet, to the classification of the Archæological,

Paleontological and Numismatic collections, to the accumulation and arrangement of the books and pamphlets in our Library, and to the preservation of the various manuscripts. To reach any degree of success in such diverse fields of study required not only unusual versatility of talent and breadth of culture, but also demanded the mental fitness and technical training necessary to supply the specific knowledge for the intelligent treatment of each separate branch.

Harrison Wright embodied every element of fitness for these several duties; a natural aptitude for each contingent study, tireless industry, compass for the most abstruse problems, and care for the minutest details, and an honorable and wholly unselfish ambition for leadership and excellence in almost every avenue of knowledge.

He mapped out the chief work of the Society in advance of each meeting and took a prominent part in all its discussions. He collated its records with special care, and was active in their preparation for publication. He continually added to and enriched our cabinets and collections from his own private resources. He read before the Society many original papers covering a diversity of topics, always treating his subject with marked talent, judgment, and critical insight. The many translations and annotations from the Ger-

man, French and Latin writers, which he from time to time presented, elucidating some subject bearing upon the work and discussions of the Society, proved his attainments as a linguist and his familiarity with the works of classical writers.

He employed a rare natural gift for enlisting the sympathies of others in the work of the Society, the effects of which were a revival of interest, an increase of membership, and an extension of the influence of the institution. And with it all he was a genial and lovable associate and friend; in his moral as in his mental habiliments a truly representative scion of worthy parents and an honorable ancestry; piously dutiful to every obligation of manhood; and as a citizen one of those whose purity, charity and patriotism of thought and deed are the chief elements in making republics great and grateful.

In feeble but heartfelt tribute to the virtues and capacities thus imperfectly detailed, it is hereby

*Resolved*, That in the death of Harrison Wright, for more than twelve years the Secretary and most active member, this society has sustained a loss beyond computation or adequate expression. The place he left vacant can be supplied, as can be all voids of death's making, but never filled as he filled it. It is as though a main artery in the life system of the Society had been ruptured; we can stanch the dangerous flow and

bind up the wound, but we cannot be blind to the damage, and we would not hide the pain. We yield because we must. We avoid dispute with fate because it is not given us to comprehend the Divine reasoning upon which its decrees are registered.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

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[Read by GEORGE R. KEMP, Esq., Historiographer.]

"Yea, hope and despondency, pleasure and pain,  
We mingle together as snow and rain;  
And the smiles and the tears, the songs and the dirge,  
Still follow each other like surge upon surge."

At the last regular meeting of this organization Harrison Wright sat with us, to all outward appearances in the full bloom of perfect health. His unselfishly ambitious love for the pursuits coming within the scope of this organization, making it impossible for us, during years past, to think of the organization without thinking of him as its most ardent friend and principal sustainer, was apparent in almost everything done at that meeting and noted in the minutes of its proceedings which have just been read to us. He was then as hopeful and enthusiastic as he was active and energetic. In every project the Society looked to him, often for leadership, always for generous and important assistance. His natural talent for historical research, perfected by most careful cultivation, was in demand to elucidate the numerous subjects, in the examination and exposition of which this society zealously aims to be a careful



student and intelligent teacher. We were with him then, and depending upon him then, as we had been with him and dependent upon him a hundred times before, and as we fondly hoped and expected to be with him and to depend upon him hundreds of times again. Yet in less than a fortnight he had been summoned to that other world, of which the highest knowledge attainable in this leaves us in darkness penetrable only by the light of the lamp of resignation and faith. It is generally understood that the illness, which resulted in his death, was caused by the insidious draughts of raw, damp air that found their way into the museum of this society at a time when he was engaged in gathering some details for a report upon its status, which report was his last official communication to us. If anything could, this fact would add to the gratefulness in which we hold his memory as one whose devotion to our society's interests was without a selfish thought, whose services rendered in its behalf were beyond computation in value and who was truly one of the chief pillars of its strength.

Harrison Wright was born in this city, July 15, 1850, and was, therefore, at the time of his death, February 20, 1885, not quite 35 years of age. That he was enabled in so short a life-time to accomplish so much, seems at first glance as surprising, as it is that a

man so full of usefulness and promise should have been called away, when there are so many others the world could much better have spared. That he inherited at least a part of his peculiar enthusiasm and fitness for the work in which he engaged, is a conclusion which must force itself upon even those who have least faith in such inheritance, after they shall have informed themselves somewhat of the ancestry from which he sprung. That ancestry identifies the blood which flowed in his veins with that of the moving spirits in the earliest history of our city, county and State; in the primary and progressive developments of the vast mineral resources of this particular section of our great commonwealth; in the grandest unfolding of the sciences and arts in this country, and in various important scientific and patriotic undertakings in other countries.

There is nothing particularly original in the manner of the presentation of the interesting facts which, in the performance of my duty as the Historiographer of this society, I here follow—the work of compiling them having been well advanced by Harrison Wright himself in his life-time.\*

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\*A portion of the following pages, especially the several biographical sketches, I have taken from an unpublished work of Dr. Wright, entitled, "A Genealogical and Biographical Record of John Jacob Weiss," and inserted without alteration or addition.

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ment, considering that those terrible pests, the wild geese and wild turkeys, destroy almost entirely one's crops."

The wife of John Wright was Abigail Crispin, daughter of Silas Crispin, the elder. After the grant of Pennsylvania to William Penn, Silas Crispin was appointed Surveyor General, and sailed with William Crispin, his father, John Beryar and Christopher Allen, who were appointed commissioners to go to Pennsylvania with power to purchase lands of the Indians and to select a site for and lay out a great city; but, dying on the voyage, Captain Thomas Holmes was appointed his successor, April 18, 1682. He was a native of Waterford, Ireland, and is said to have served in the fleet under Admiral Penn in the West Indies when a young man. He sailed from the Downs, April 23, accompanied by two sons and two daughters, Silas Crispin, the son of his predecessor in office, and John, the eldest son of James Claypole. Thomas Holmes made his home in Philadelphia, and owned land in Bristol township, Bucks county, Pa., but it is not known that he ever lived there. His daughter Hester married Silas Crispin, who came to America with him. These were the parents of Mrs. Wright. The mother of Silas Crispin, the elder, was a sister of Margaret Jasper, the mother of William Penn, which made him the first cousin of the founder.

Samuel Wright, son of John Wright, was born at Wrightstown in 1719 and died in 1781. His wife was Elizabeth Haines, daughter of Caleb Haines, of Evesham.

Caleb Wright, son of Samuel Wright, was born at Wrightstown, Jan'y 14, 1754. He married Catharine, daughter of John Gardner, in 1779, and removed with his family to the "Susquehanna country" in 1795. He purchased and settled upon a farm in Union township, Luzerne county, Pa., two miles above Shickshinny, where he remained till 1811 and then returned to New Jersey. Mr. and Mrs. Wright lived to a good old age after their removal to New Jersey and their remains are interred at the Friends' burial-ground at East Branch, Upper Freehold, Monmouth county, N. J.

Joseph Wright, son of Caleb Wright, was but a boy of ten years when his father removed from Wrightstown to the Susquehanna country. Previous to the return of his father to New Jersey he had married, and established a small retail store in Plymouth, and he alone of the family remained in our county. He was a resident of the town of Plymouth for more than half a century, and during that long period was intimately connected with its municipal government and was one of its representative men. He was the second person in the mercantile business in Old Plymouth. He, however, continued but a short time in this occu-

pation, afterwards devoting his attention to the interests of his farm. His ancestors for two hundred years had belonged to the Society of Friends; he steadily adhered to the faith of this religious order of people to the hour of his death. Notwithstanding he had been expelled from the society, because he had married outside of the church limits and in direct violation of its discipline, he ever considered himself as one of the order, however, and bound by its formulas and creed. It is, however, somewhat difficult to reconcile his professed religious obligations in view of his conduct in entering the service in the war of 1812. We find him in Captain Halleck's company of Pennsylvania militia on the march for the defense of Baltimore. Patriotism had triumphed over sectarian fealty, the tri-colored cockade usurped the broad-brim. The regiment, however, never saw active service.

Mr. Wright married, June 15, 1807, Ellen Hendrick, widow of Moses Wadhams, deceased. She was the daughter of John Hendrick, who was a descendant in the fourth generation of Daniel Hendrick (who was of Haverhill in 1645, and had been of Hampton in 1639) and Dorothy Pike, daughter of John Pike, of Newbury, in 1635. Joseph Wright had three sons. Hendrick Bradley Wright, his eldest, was a very prominent lawyer at the Luzerne bar. He represented Luzerne county in the lower house of the State Legislature in

the years 1841, 1842, 1843, and the latter year was speaker of that body. In 1844 he was president of the Democratic National Convention which nominated James K. Polk for the presidency. In 1852, 1853, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1876, 1877, 1878 and 1879, he represented Luzerne county in the National Congress. He was the author of "A Practical Treatise on Labor" and "Historical Sketches of Plymouth," his native town. He died in Wilkes-Barré, September 2, 1881. Caleb Earl Wright, the second son of Joseph Wright, is still living and resides at Doylestown, Pa. He is also a prominent lawyer. He was president of the first borough council of Doylestown, district-attorney of Bucks county, and while a resident of Luzerne county, held the office of collector of internal revenue under President Johnson, and was a member of the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention of 1874. He is also an ordained minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is the author of a novel under the title of "Wyoming," from the press of Harper Brothers, and a romance under the title of "Marcus Blair," published by J. B. Lippincott & Co. The third and youngest son of Joseph Wright was Harrison Wright, the father of the subject of our sketch. He was born at Plymouth, January 24, A. D. 1815. Perhaps no better estimate of his character can be given than that found in the proceedings of a meet-

ing of the bar of this county held immediately after his death. At this meeting the late John N. Conyngham was president, E. L. Dana secretary, and Warren J. Woodward chairman of the committee on resolutions, who reported as follows: "We are summoned to this meeting under circumstances of most painful interest. We are met to render our professional tribute to the memory of Harrison Wright. Death within a few years past has made sad havoc in our ranks. Recently, and at brief intervals, we have been required to record the successive loss of Chester Butler, Luther Kidder and Horatio W. Nicholson. They were stricken down in the very prime of their usefulness and in the very summer of their years. The grasp of the common destiny of us all was unrelentingly and unrelaxingly fastened upon them in the midst of the strongest ties to life—in the enjoyment of high social and professional position—of the public confidence and regard—of the reputation that results from high office and great wealth. But in no instance has the blow fallen so severely upon us as it has fallen now. Mr. Wright has been constantly among us—with the exception of a few months passed in the Legislature during the year 1855, he has devoted himself during almost twenty years to the practice of the law. Almost every man who is gathered here, from the very day of his admission into the profession, has been habituated to



his presence in our courts. We have all been under obligations to him for assistance and advice, most readily and most gratefully rendered. We have felt deep obligations to him for the kindly spirit which has characterized the intercourse of the members of the bar, and which in a great measure was created by his counsel and example. It is due to his reputation, as well as to ourselves, that regret for his early death and respect for his memory and sympathy for his surviving family should be expressed by the members of that profession which he loved and honored and illustrated and adorned throughout his life. Mr. Wright was a thorough lawyer; deeply imbued with the profound principles which form the fountains of our legal system, he kept himself constantly familiar with the current exposition of those principles by the court. His acquaintance with the details and forms of business was most accurate and minute. In his whole heavy and long-continued practice he was, in every case, untiring, indubitable and indefatigable. In the preparation and trial of causes he was laborious, wary, methodical, accurate and prompt. And he was a most accomplished advocate. In all the long history of our old court-house its walls have resounded to no eloquence more attractive or more effective than his. An entire generation of the people of our whole county must pass away before the memory of his fine person,

his impressive manners and his prompt tones shall be forgotten. In the varied and growing business interests of the community the premature death of Mr. Wright will be severely felt. Born and bred in the Wyoming valley, his sympathies and his heart were here. To promote the prosperity of the county of Luzerne his time and his purse were always given. In the very best and most enlarged sense of the phrase he was a man of public spirit. In the improvements made and progress around us the mark of his hand and intellect is everywhere visible. To the erection of our churches; to the schemes for the development of our mineral resources; to the organization of our gas company; to the measures requisite to secure the completion of the North Branch canal; to the efforts to extend to this county the general mining law, productive as this has been of such wonderful results; to the establishment of our law library; to every feasible scheme for the advancement of the material interests of our community, his influence and liberality have been ungrudgingly and effectively extended. He was a peculiarly unselfish man. And he threw into every effort for the public good, as he threw into every professional struggle in which his sympathies were aroused, all the astonishing vigor, energy and enthusiasm of his character, regardless of individual results for himself. It was a peculiarity of Mr. Wright's position that he

numbered among the members of the profession an unusually large proportion of personal friends. His relations with many members of the bar were of the most intimate and confidential kind. With almost all of them these relations were marked by uniform courtesy and cordiality. He was a true, faithful, reliable and active friend, and no considerations of personal interest or personal ease ever induced him to abandon the man whom he had promised to serve or who held a claim for his service. In every relation of life Mr. Wright had upright and single aims. He was a resolute man. He pursued boldly and unflinchingly the path of duty open before him. And with his extraordinary abilities, his attractive and impressive manners; his clear, quick, sound judgment; the unbounded confidence of the community in his honor, integrity and faith; his steadiness of nerve and his strength of purpose, he wielded an influence upon systems and events around him almost without parallel or example. For reasons thus hastily and imperfectly sketched, we do

*“Resolve,* That we have learned the fact of the death of Harrison Wright, Esq., on August 25, 1856, with feelings of deep and abiding regret. His loss will be felt as an individual grief by each one of us, connected as we have been with him in relations of intimate, social and professional intercourse, but we bow in

[illegible]

studies that his father gave him every advantage which the schools of St. Petersburg at that period afforded, and already on April 23, 1755, at the age of 16, we find him matriculated as *studiosus medicinae* at the University of Halle, on the Saale, one of the leading universities of Germany. Owing to the incompleteness of the records of the medical faculty of the university at that time, it is impossible to state now how long he remained there or whether or not he took a degree, though it is likely he did take the latter, as he was later a practicing physician in St. Petersburg and had there a large apothecary and drug business. The liberal policy adopted by the far-seeing Peter towards professional and scientific men, as well as to the foreign merchants located in Russia, insured protection to Charles Cist in the early days of Catharine; and the income of his business enabled him to amass considerable property and to collect the finest cabinet of minerals in the city of St. Petersburg, and one whose rarities the highest dignitary of the church thought worthy of a Sunday visit to examine. But when his success was at its highest a change came. Filled with liberal ideas too far advanced to be tolerated in despotic Russia, he joined with others in a proposed revolution which, being discovered by the authorities, was suppressed, his property confiscated and he, in 1767, an exile at Omsk, in Siberia, from whence he

escaped and fled, a political refugee, to the hospitable shores of America, arriving in Philadelphia, in the ship Crawford, on October 25, 1773. Directly after his arrival he met Henry Miller, who was at that time publishing a German paper in Philadelphia, entitled *Pennsylvanischer Staatsbote*, and who, desiring some competent person to translate articles from English exchanges into German for the *Staatsbote*, offered the position to Charles Cist until he should become acquainted in Philadelphia and acquire enough money to start in his regular business. The offer was accepted and the printing business pleased him so well that he remained for two years with Miller, and in December, 1775, entered into copartnership with Melchior Styner, who had been Miller's foreman, and they established a printing-office of their own. At the beginning of our revolutionary troubles this firm published a newspaper in the German language, but not receiving the necessary support and encouragement it was discontinued in April, 1776. Many pamphlets on the critical questions of those disturbed times were issued from the press of Styner & Cist, among others Thomas Paine's "American Crisis." During the war Styner and Cist were both enrolled as members of the Third Battalion of Pennsylvania militia, and on June 20, 1777, Charles Cist took the voluntary oath of allegiance and fidelity. Upon returning to Philadelphia after the

evacuation of the British, the firm continued the printing business, and in the year 1779, besides publishing "Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States" and a number of other pamphlets, they again commenced the publication of a German newspaper. In 1781 the copartnership after existing for nearly six years—years most eventful in the history of this country—was by consent dissolved. Henry Miller, instead of discouraging the formation of this firm, seems to have aided and assisted in every way; and in after years when Cist had gained a competency and Styner was still struggling along, Henry Miller died and left the fortune, or a large part of it, which he had accumulated during a busy life, to Styner. In 1784 Charles Cist, together with Seddon, John O'Connor, and others, started an English newspaper entitled *The American Herald and General Advertiser*, but for want of encouragement it was discontinued; and at a meeting of the proprietors, held July 3, 1784, it was resolved that the publication of the paper should cease and the subscription money be refunded to the subscribers. On October 1, 1789, Charles Cist, together with Seddon, William Spotswood, James Trenchard and the well-known Matthew Carey, started the *Columbian Magazine*, a monthly miscellany, with the year 1789. Trenchard became the sole proprietor, and the subsequent numbers were

published by him alone. Mr. Cist published between the years 1781-1805 a large number of religious, political and educational works in at least four languages, among which in German in the year 1783 was "Wahrheit und guter Rath an die Einwohner Deutschlands, besonders in Hessen," and in 1789, "Der amerikanische Stadt und Land Kalender;" and continued in the three-fold capacity of printer, publisher and bookseller until his death in 1805. In this latter year he published, among other works, a reprint of Rev. Andrew Fuller's, "The Gospel its own Witness." Mr. Cist was a member of the German Society of Pennsylvania; in 1782 was a member of the school committee, and in 1795 secretary of the association. He was also the secretary of the ——— Fire Insurance Company of Philadelphia, and announces in May, 1793, that this company had procured an apparatus to save people from burning houses; it consisted in an elevated basket. Under the administration of the elder Adams he received the contract for printing official documents. In the year 1800 he went to Washington and arranged at great expense a printing-office and book-bindery, purchased real estate, built several houses and believed he had a good, remunerative position, but it was not long after the victory of the Democratic party in 1801 that he lost his privileges and returned to Philadelphia poorer than



when he left. In writing to his son Jacob in regard to his losses in Washington, under date of February 7, 1803, he says: "Misfortunes follow one upon another and bear the more severely upon me at my time of life when I, in a manner, must begin the world anew. But I trust in Providence, and the conscience of the rectitude of my actions supports me under the complicated evils that the loss of my place has brought upon me. Heaven forgive my enemies, they have done me more harm than they intended." In a back room of his printing-office he had arranged a small laboratory to which it was his delight to withdraw, when business permitted, to experiment with chemicals. Here he discovered and patented colors for dyeing from the quercitron bark; he manufactured on a small scale cakes of water-color paints, and prepared, by grinding, paints for oil painters. It was here, too, that he tested the "black stone" discovered on the Lehigh by Philip Ginter and taken to Philadelphia by Colonel Weiss, and which he pronounced to be anthracite coal. He was one of the founders and largest stockholders of the "Lehigh Coal Mine Company," which was founded in 1792. He died of apoplexy while on a visit to his brother-in-law, Colonel Weiss, at Fort Allen, on December 1, 1805, and lies buried in the Moravian burial-ground, at Bethlehem. He was sanguine in his disposition, punctual and of most rigid

integrity in his business relations, courtly in his manners, and yet of most modest demeanor, which recommended him to all classes with whom he came in contact. He was unassuming and unpretentious, and yet his university education and his knowledge of the literature of several languages rendered him welcome among the savants of the then metropolis of the new world. The purity and simplicity of his character was at all times a source of admiration with those who knew him, and when his trials and losses came he had the sympathy of every one; even some of those who were the cause of them afterwards repented of the action which they had taken and tried to retrieve it by kindness to his son while he was in Washington. A brother and two sisters residing in Russia survived him, all of whom were married, and their descendants are to-day scattered throughout the length and breadth of Russia. He married, June 7, 1781, Mary, daughter of John Jacob and Rebecca Weiss, who was born in Philadelphia, June 22, 1762, and had eight children, all of whom were living at the time of his death.

The father of Mrs. Charles Cist, John Jacob Weiss, was born in the village of Wahlheim, near Bietigheim, in the kingdom of Würtemberg, Germany, on July 20, 1721. His parents were John Jacob and Mary Elizabeth Weiss. He was confirmed in the Lutheran Church of his native village in 1736, and in 1740

emigrated to America, landing in Philadelphia in September of that year. On the 24th of October, 1746, he married Rebecca Cox, of Swedish descent. She was born November 23, 1725, in Passyunk township, now in Philadelphia, and reared in the Lutheran religion. Her father, Peter Cox, who died in January, 1751, aged 63 years, was the grandson of Peter Lawson Koch, who came from Sweden in 1641 with the third Swedish colony, and settled upon the Delaware. On January 8, 1749, when the United Brethren were favored with a particularly blessed day, the occasion being a visit of Brother John (Bishop Spangenberg) and others, John Jacob Weiss and his wife Rebecca were received into the Brethren's association and admitted to the holy communion. In the month of June, 1750, he purchased a hundred acres of land in Long valley, in the present county of Monroe, partly on Head's creek. He took the oath of allegiance to George II. April 12, 1750, before Chief Justice Allen, and to the United States, July 2, 1778. Mr. Weiss was a surgeon, and had his place of business for many years on Second street, Philadelphia. He died September 22, 1788, and was buried next day in the Moravian burial-ground in Philadelphia. His wife Rebecca died July 3, 1808. The old Moravian record says: "She was a communicant of our church and a simple, genuine follower of the Lord." Mr. and Mrs.

Weiss had eleven children, of whom Mary, the tenth child, became the wife of Charles Cist. She was born in Philadelphia, June 22, 1762, and was baptized the 25th of the same month by Rev. George Neisser.


It may not be out of place in this sketch of our late associate, to portray the character of Col. Jacob Weiss, the brother of Mary Cist. He was born in Philadelphia, September 1, 1750, and after the commencement of hostilities between the mother country and the Colonies he entered the Continental service in the first company of Philadelphia volunteers, commanded by Captain Cadwalader, and after having performed a tour of duty, he was at the earnest recommendation of General Mifflin, then Acting Quartermaster General, to whom he had served an apprenticeship in the mercantile line, and who knew him to be a trusty and proficient accountant, appointed a Deputy Quartermaster General under him, and subsequently under General Green, in which station he remained until General Green took command of the Southern army, October 30, 1780; the admirable arrangement of the Quartermaster General's department and the able management of General Green, enabled the army to move with facility and dispatch. The means possessed by the commissary's department were inadequate to supply the army's wants and frequently caused great distress, and often rendered its condition deplorable.

The financial embarrassment which followed upon the rapid depreciation of the Continental money, was a greater bane to the cause of the patriots and a more insidious enemy than the powerful foe which confronted them. Prices rose as money sunk in value. The commissaries found it extremely difficult to purchase supplies for the army, for the people refused to exchange their articles for the almost worthless paper. At the close of the year 1779, thirty dollars in paper was only equal in purchasing value to one of specie. After the defeat of the American army in the battle of Brandywine, September 11, 1777, the road to Philadelphia was open to the enemy. There was great consternation among the people when they heard of the approach of the British army. Mrs. Weiss frequently spoke of the excitement that followed; every one tried to get away, fabulous prices were paid for all kinds of conveyances. Her husband was with the army and she was left to her own resources. She was fortunate in procuring a conveyance, and taking with her the wearing apparel of the family and a few household articles, started with her family for Bristol. Upon her arrival there, she found the hotel used as a hospital for the wounded soldiers. The sight of these greatly distressed her, as she said it was the most sickening sight she ever beheld. In the following month Colonel Weiss sent his family to

Easton. During those perilous times he was almost constantly attached to, and followed the various, and often sudden movements of the main army, which proved a very harassing and arduous service. By the advice of General Green, who in his farewell letter to him, highly and affectionately commended him for the faithful performance of the various duties imposed upon him, he accepted the appointment of Assistant Deputy Quartermaster General, at Easton, for the county of Northampton, in the fall of 1780, in which capacity he served until the close of the war. In June, 1780, Colonel Weiss moved his family from Easton to Nazareth. After closing up the business of his department in 1783, he retired from the public service, and purchased a tract of land on the Lehigh river, north of the Blue mountain, including the broad flats, upon which is located the town of Weissport, Lehigh county, Pa. This was the site selected by the Moravian missionaries in 1754, for their mission, when the land on the Mahoning became impoverished. Here they erected dwellings for their Indian converts, and built a new chapel. To this wild and secluded spot he brought his family in the spring of 1786. The inhabitants were few, and simple in their habits, unburdened by the restraints and conventionalities of modern life. Nor had they need of many of the things, we now

consider necessary to our health and comfort. An umbrella was considered a great novelty, and Mrs. Weiss at first attracted some attention by carrying one on a rainy day. The Colonel's residence was built near the site upon which Fort Allen (named in honor of Chief Justice Allen) formerly stood. "It was in the beginning of the month of January, 1756," writes Dr. Franklin, "when we set out upon this business of building forts. The Indians had burned Gnadenhütten, a village settled by the Moravians, and massacred the inhabitants; but the place was thought a good situation for one of the forts. Our first work was to bury more effectually the dead we found there. The next morning our fort was planned and marked out, the circumference measuring four hundred and fifty-five feet, which would require as many palisades to be made, one with another, of a foot in diameter each. Each piece made three palisades of eighteen feet long, pointed at one end. When they were set up, our carpenters built a platform of boards all around within, about six feet high, for the men to stand on when they fired through the loop-holes. We had one swivel-gun, which we mounted on one of the angles and fired it as soon as fixed, to let the Indians know, if any were within hearing, that we had such pieces, and thus our fort (if that name may be given to so miserable a

stockade,) was finished within a week, though it rained so hard every other day, that the men could not well work." Within the enclosure around the Colonel's house, was the well, which was dug inside the fort by Franklin's direction, and long remained as a memorial of the old Indian war, and also testified to what "Poor Richard" knew about digging wells. It continued to furnish an abundant supply of pure water, until it was destroyed by the devastating flood, which swept through the valley of the Lehigh in 1862. The bell of the old Moravian chapel, was found near this well by one of the workmen, while digging a post-hole. Under the energetic management of Col. Weiss, the flats around his dwelling, and the adjacent hills were rapidly cleared up and cultivated, while the surrounding forests furnished an abundant supply of lumber for his mills. To protect the soil from floods, a fringe of trees was left along the bank of the river, and the Lombardy poplar was planted along the roads and around his dwelling to furnish shade. While thus engaged in transforming the wild glens of the Lehigh into fertile fields and changing these savage haunts into the peaceful abodes of civilized life, he probably realized that "peace as well as war has its victories." About this time he was also engaged in business with Judge Hollenback, trading under the firm name of Weiss & Hollenback.





This partnership commenced as early as 1785 and continued as late as 1788. In the year 1791 an event occurred, in itself apparently trifling, but fraught with momentous results to the future interests of this section of country. This was the discovery of coal in the Lehigh district. The story of its discovery is doubtless familiar to many. Nevertheless, as Col. Weiss was prominently connected with its discovery and first introduction to the public, a brief reference to the same may not be amiss. A hunter of the name of Philip Ginter had taken up his residence in that district of country. He built himself a rough cabin and supported his family by hunting in the dense and primitive forests, abounding in game. On the occasion to which we are now referring, Ginter had spent the whole day in the woods without meeting with the least success. As the shades of evening gathered around he found himself on the summit of Sharp mountain, several miles distant from home; night was rapidly approaching and a storm of rain was advancing, which caused him to quicken his pace. As he bent his course homeward through the woods, he stumbled over the root of a tree, which had recently fallen. Among the black dirt, turned up by the roots, he discovered pieces of black stone. He had heard persons speak of stone-coal as existing in these mountains, and concluding that this might be a portion of that stone-coal, of

which he had heard, he took a specimen with him to his cabin, and the next day carried it to Col. Jacob Weiss. The Colonel, who was alive to the subject, took the specimen with him to Philadelphia and submitted it to the inspection of John Nicholson and Michael Hillegas, and also to Charles Cist, an intelligent printer and the brother-in-law of Col. Weiss, who ascertained its nature and qualities, and told the Colonel to pay Ginter for his discovery upon his pointing out the place where he found the coal. This was readily done by acceding to Ginter's proposal of getting, through the regular forms of the land office, the title for a small tract of land on which there was a mill-site, and which he supposed had never been taken up, and of which he was unhappily deprived by the claim of a prior survey. Messrs. Hillegas, Cist, Weiss, Henry and some others soon after formed themselves into what was called the Lehigh Coal Mine Company, but without a charter of incorporation, and took up about 10,000 acres of till then unlocated land, which included the opening at Summit hill and embracing about five-sixths of the coal lands of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company. The Coal Mine Company proceeded to open the mines; they found coal in abundance, but like the man who caught the elephant, they hardly knew what to do with it. Between the coal mine and the distant market lay a

vast expanse of wild and rugged mountains and valleys. The Lehigh river in season of low water, in its then unimproved state, almost defied the floating of a canoe over its rocky bed. There was an abundance of wood at low prices and no demand for stone coal. A rough road, however, was constructed from the mines to the Lehigh, about nine miles in length. After many fruitless attempts to get coal to market by this road and the Lehigh river, the Lehigh Coal Mine Company became tired of the experiment and suffered their property to lie idle for many years. But Col. Weiss, notwithstanding the inauspicious outlook, determined that the coal should at least be introduced to the acquaintance of the public. He filled his saddle-bags from time to time and rode around among the blacksmiths in the lower counties, earnestly soliciting them to try it. A few accepted the proffered supplies and used it with partial success. The rest threw it aside as soon as the Colonel was out of sight, quietly remarking that they thought he must be getting crazy. William Henry, then engaged in manufacturing muskets under a contract from Governor Mifflin of Pennsylvania, employed a blacksmith residing in Nazareth, and prevailed upon him to try to make use of this coal, but after three or four days' trial, altering his fireplace frequently, but all to no purpose, became impatient and in a passion threw all

the coal he had in his shop into the street, telling Mr. Henry that everybody was laughing at him for being such a fool as to try to make stones burn, and that they said Mr. Henry was a bigger fool to bring those stones to Nazareth. The Coal Mine Company, desiring to render their property available, granted very favorable leases to several parties successively, only to have them abandoned in turn when the difficulties and losses of the enterprise became manifest. The project was allowed to rest until the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company, by building dams and sluices and otherwise improving the navigation of the Lehigh, and constructing a good road between the mine and river, succeeded in sending coal to the Philadelphia market in sufficient quantities and at prices which at length attracted the attention of the public. In the year 1820 three hundred and sixty-five tons of coal were sent to market. This quantity of coal completely stocked the market, and was with difficulty disposed of. Col. Weiss, having had the misfortune to be deprived of his eyesight for about twenty years before his death, and later becoming extremely deaf, which misfortune, he bore with exemplary resignation, did not enjoy seeing and being fully apprised of the fruits of his labor and ardent desires. He was a man of liberal education, strong minded, remarkable memory and generous disposition, esteemed and respected by

all who knew him. He died at Weissport, January 9, 1839. Nearly three score years have passed away since he was compelled, by reason of advancing age and failing eyesight, to relinquish the active duties of life. How marvelous the results which have since taken place in the growth of that enterprise of which he was the pioneer!

Jacob Cist, eldest son of Charles and Mary Cist, was born in Philadelphia, on March 13, 1782. On the 5th of September, 1794, when only a little over 12 years of age, his father sent him to the Moravian boarding-school, at Nazareth, in Northampton county, Pennsylvania, where he remained three years, leaving on the 10th of June, 1797, after completing the established course of study at that time required, which, besides a thorough study of all the ordinary English branches, included a knowledge of Greek, Latin, German and French.

His love for, and talent of, easily acquiring languages, he seems to have inherited from his father, who was an accomplished and enthusiastic linguist, and the knowledge derived from a three years' course under competent teachers, was the groundwork upon which he perfected himself in after years.

Here, too, under the old French drawing-master, M. A. Benade, he acquired a considerable knowledge

of drawing and painting. He was particularly happy in catching a likeness.

On his return to Philadelphia in 1797, he assisted his father in the printing-office, devoting his spare hours to study, and in the year 1800, when his father purchased property in Washington city and erected a printing-office there, he went to that place to take charge of the office. Upon his father's relinquishing the business in Washington he determined to locate there, and applying for a clerkship secured one in the Postoffice Department, which he retained from the fall of 1800 until he removed to Wilkes-Barré, Pennsylvania, in the year 1808. So well satisfied were Mr. Granger and his successors with the capabilities of Mr. Cist that upon his arrival in this city he was appointed postmaster, which office he retained until his death in 1825, thus having been for a quarter of a century in the employ of the Postoffice Department. His father, writing to him in 1802, says: "As it is "to your good conduct in the Federal city that I "chiefly ascribe the confidence the Postmaster General places in you and the kindness he shows in procuring you an advantageous post, I cannot refrain "of recommending you the same conduct in your "future stages of life as the surest means of forwarding yourself in the world with credit and reputation." His spare time in Washington he appears to

have devoted principally to painting and literature. He has left a good picture of Mr. Jefferson and an admirable copy of Gilbert Stuart's portrait of Mrs. Madison, which she permitted him to paint, and a number of miniatures. Being obliged to mix his own paints, and not finding a mill to suit, he invented one and patented it in the year 1803.

He was a contributor to *The Literary Magazine* as early as 1804, and to Charles Miner's paper in Wilkes-Barré. Mr. Miner writes, under date of Nov. 28, 1806: "I am charmed with your piece on 'Morning.' It possesses all the life, spirit and variety of that "charming season," and Dec. 26, 1806: "Your "'Noon' is in type. If you are but a young courtier "at the shrine of the muses, you have been unusually "fortunate in obtaining their approbation;" and Feb. 19, 1807: "Your last letter containing your 'Night' "was very welcome. The description is truly natural "and elegant, and its only fault was its shortness. I "hope you will often favor me with your poetic effusions or prosaic lucubrations," and at other times he writes: "Your four pieces on Morning, Noon, Evening and Night have been warmly commended by a "literary friend in Philadelphia." Again: "From the "friendship shown you by the muses I suspect you "visit their ladyships more than just 'a vacant hour "now and then.' So great a portion of their favor as

"they have bestowed on you, I should not suppose  
"was to be obtained but by a close and constant  
"courtship. I thank you for the communication and  
"shall always be happy to have my paper improved  
"by the production of your fancy. Your address to  
"your candle is excellent and shall appear next  
"week."

He contributed to the *Port Folio* from 1808 to 1816. The publishers, writing to him in 1809, say: "We  
"have to acknowledge many interesting and valuable  
"communications from you. We rank you among  
"our most valuable correspondents and will hope for  
"a continuance of your favors."

His communications to this magazine were many and varied; at one time it was poetry, at another the description of some new machine, sometimes over the letters "J. C." and others over the letter "C." Many of the old settlers will still remember his sketches with pen and pencil of "Solomon's Falls" and "Buttermilk Falls."

In the May number, 1809, is a drawing and description by him of Mr. Birde's "Columbian Spinster;" in the March number, 1811, a drawing and description of "Eve's Cotton Gin," and in the October number, 1812, an "Ode on Hope."

Jacob Cist was married on the 25th of August, 1807, by the Rev. Ard Hoyt to Sarah Hollenback,



daughter of Judge Matthias Hollenback, of Wilkes-Barré, Pa., whom Charles Miner at that time described as "a charming little girl, apparently about 16 years old, the natural rose on her cheek heightened by exercise, and a sweet smile playing about her lips." On her mother's side she was descended from old New England stock,\* and her father's grandfather was a landholder in Pennsylvania as early as 1729.†

After his marriage he returned to Washington and remained there until the spring of 1808, when he removed to Wilkes-Barré and entered into partnership with his father-in-law, under the firm name of Hollenback & Cist, which existed a number of years. For three years Mr. and Mrs. Cist lived at Mill Creek, but in the fall of 1811 they moved into their new house on Bank street, now River street, in the borough, which is still standing. At an early day Jacob Cist's attention was attracted towards the uses of anthracite coal. He was a boy of ten years when his father experimented on the Lehigh coal and might

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\*Mrs. Hollenback's father, Peleg Burritt, Jr., was a grandson of Ensign Stephen Burritt, who, according to Hinman, was "a famous Indian fighter," and Commissary General to the army in King Philip's war, and his father, William Burritt, the first of the name in this country, was an original settler in Stratford, Conn., prior to 1650. Her mother, whose maiden name was Deborah Beardslee, was the granddaughter of Ebenezer Booth, the son of Richard Booth by his wife Elizabeth (Hawley,) who was living in Stratford in the year 1640.

†See Rupp's "Thirty Thousand Emigrants."

possibly have seen him at work. He must often have heard his father conversing with Col. Weiss, both in Philadelphia and Bethlehem, on the feasibility of opening their mines and making a market for the Lehigh coal long before he was old enough to appreciate the importance of the undertaking or the disadvantages under which these pioneers in the coal trade labored in persuading people of the practicability of using stone-coal as a fuel, though in after years, by observation and study, he saw its importance and he learned by a practical experience the labor and disappointments attendant on its introduction to use. As early as the year 1805 he conceived the idea of manufacturing a mineral black for printers' ink, leather lacquer, blacking, etc., from the Lehigh coal, and the results of his experiments were secured to him by patent in the year 1808. In regard to his discovery Chief Justice Gibson wrote the following letter to Thomas Cooper, who published it in the *Emporium of Arts and Sciences*, Vol. II, new series, page 477.

"WILKES-BARRÉ, Feb. 23d, 1814.

"DEAR SIR—I send you a likeness of one of your friends. There is nothing remarkable in it, except that it is done with the stone-coal of this place instead of India ink. It is prepared for use by rubbing a bit of it on a fine hard stone in gum water, just

"thick enough to hold the particles in suspension. It  
"is then laid on in the usual way with a camel hair  
"pencil. By a comparison with a drawing in India  
"ink you will, I doubt not, give the preference to the  
"coal, as it will be found free from a brownish cast,  
"always perceivable in the former. The harshness  
"observable in the enclosed drawing arises from the  
"extreme badness of the pencil I was obliged to use  
"and not from the quality of the ink, (which is sus-  
"ceptible of the greatest softness). The coal is found  
"to be superior to lamp or ivory black for paint,  
"printers' ink and blacking leather. It also makes  
"the best writing ink for records that has yet been  
"discovered. The color is deeper and is not in the  
"least effected by the oxy-muriatic acid or any other  
"chemical agent and must remain unaltered by time.  
"The application of coal to these purposes was dis-  
"covered by Jacob Cist, of this place. He has ob-  
"tained a patent. Very sincerely, your friend,

"JOHN B. GIBSON.

"Thomas Cooper, Esq."

To this letter Judge Cooper added the following  
note:

"The only objection to the preceding account of  
"the uses to which stone-coal may be put, is, whatever  
"mucilaginous substance be used to fix it on the paper  
"water can wash it away.

"But that it will afford a coloring matter, unattackable by any acid and unalterable by any time, cannot be doubted.

"The discovery is of importance. T. C."

This patent was considered to be worth upwards of \$5,000, but a number of law-suits, arising from a constant infringement of it by manufacturers, so annoyed Mr. Cist that he was glad to dispose of it for a less sum. It is said that after the destruction of the Patent Office records by fire, some one else took out a patent for the same idea and is now working under it. After Mr. Cist had removed to Wilkes-Barré he made a study of the adjacent coal-fields, especially at the mines of the Smith Brothers, at Plymouth, and the old Lord Butler opening. He determined upon entering into the mining of coal as a business as soon as he should feel satisfied that the right time had come to introduce it in the cities in large enough quantities to make the adventure a profitable one. That time came with the year 1813, when the British squadron held both the Delaware and Chesapeake bays in a state of blockade. In the spring of that year he undertook to introduce it in Baltimore and Philadelphia. The former project proved a failure, but in the summer and fall he sent several wagon-loads to Binney & Ronaldson in Philadelphia, and their success ap-

peared to encourage the mining of anthracite upon a larger basis, so that in December of that year Jacob Cist, Charles Miner and John Robinson secured a lease from the old Lehigh Coal Mine Company of their property on the Lehigh river, near Mauch Chunk. Mr. Miner, in writing in the year 1833 to Samuel I. Packer on the formation of this co-partnership, says: "Jacob Cist, of Wilkes-Barré, my intimate and much lamented friend, had derived from his father a few shares of the Lehigh Coal Company's stock. Sitting by a glowing anthracite fire one evening in his parlor, conversation turned to the Lehigh coal, and we resolved to make an examination of the mines at Mauch Chunk and the Lehigh river to satisfy ourselves whether it would be practicable to convey coal from thence by the stream to Philadelphia. Mr. Robinson, a mutual friend, active as a man of business, united with us in the enterprise. Towards the close of 1813 we visited Mauch Chunk, examined the mines, made all the enquiries suggested by prudence respecting the navigation of the Lehigh, and made up our minds to hazard the experiment, if a sufficiently liberal arrangement could be made with the company." The following extract from the same letter is sufficient to give the reader an idea of what was accomplished: "On Tuesday, the 9th of August, (1814), I being

“absent and there being a freshet in the river, Mr. Cist  
“started off my first ark, 65 feet long, 14 feet wide,  
“with 24 tons of coal. Sunday, 14th, arrived at the  
“city, at 8 A. M. The coal cost us about \$14 a ton in  
“the city. But while we pushed forward our labors  
“at the mine (hauling coal, building arks, etc.,) we had  
“the greater difficulty to overcome of inducing the  
“public to use our coal when brought to their doors,  
“much as it was needed. We published handbills in  
“English and German, stating the mode of burning  
“the coal, either in grates, smiths’ fires, or in stoves.  
“Numerous certificates were obtained and printed from  
“blacksmiths and others, who had successfully used  
“the anthracite. Mr. Cist formed a model of a coal  
“stove and got a number of them cast. Together we  
“went to several houses in the city and prevailed upon  
“the masters to allow us to kindle fires of anthracite  
“in their grates, erected to burn Liverpool coal. We  
“attended at blacksmiths’ shops, and persuaded some  
“to alter the *tue-iron*, so that they might burn the  
“Lehigh coal; and we were sometimes obliged to  
“bribe the journeymen to try the experiment fairly,  
“so averse were they to learning the use of a new  
“sort of fuel, so different from what they had been  
“accustomed to. Great as were our united exertions,  
“(and Mr. Cist, if they were meritorious, deserves the  
“chief commendation,) necessity accomplished more

"for us than our labors. Charcoal advanced in price  
"and was difficult to be got. Manufacturers were  
"forced to try the experiment of using the anthracite,  
"and every day's experience convinced them, and  
"those who witnessed the fires, of the great value of  
"this coal. We sent down a considerable number of  
"arks, three out of four of which stove and sunk by  
"the way. Heavy, however, as was the loss, it was  
"lessened by the sale, at moderate prices, of the car-  
"goes as they lay along the shores or in the bed of the  
"Lehigh, to the smiths of Allentown, Bethlehem and  
"the country around, who drew them away when the  
"water became low. We were just learning that our  
"arks were far too large and the loads too heavy for  
"the stream, and were making preparations to build  
"coal boats to carry eight or ten tons each, that would  
"be connected together when they arrived at Easton.  
"Much had been taught us by experience, but at a  
"heavy cost, by the operations of 1814-15. Peace  
"came and found us in the midst of our enterprise.  
"Philadelphia was now opened to foreign commerce,  
"and the coasting trade resumed. Liverpool and  
"Richmond coal came in abundantly, and the hard-  
"kindling anthracite fell to a price far below the cost  
"of shipment. I need hardly add, the business was  
"abandoned, leaving several hundred tons of coal at  
"the pit's mouth, and the most costly part of the

"work done to take out some thousands of tons more.  
"Our disappointment and losses were met with the  
"spirit of youth and enterprise. We turned our at-  
"tention to other branches of industry, but on looking  
"back on the ruins of our (not unworthy) exertions,  
"I have not ceased to hope and believe that the Le-  
"high Navigation and Coal Company, when prosperity  
"begins to reward them for their most valuable labors,  
"would tender to us a fair compensation at least for  
"the work done and expenditures made, which con-  
"tributed directly to their advantage."

This adventure was so disastrous to the finances of Mr. Cist that he did not engage again in the practical mining of coal, though his mind was never idle in devising plans for the opening of our coal-fields, and for a cheap and rapid mode of getting the coal to market, and his pen was ever busy advocating both to the general public. Although much had been said and written on anthracite coal prior to 1821, Mr. Cist himself having published a pamphlet on the subject in 1815, yet in that year the first exhaustive and scientific article on the subject was prepared by Mr. Cist, being two letters, one to Prof. Silliman and the other to M. A. Brongniart, these with extracts from Mr. Cist's pamphlet of 1815, were published in the *American Journal of Science*, Vol. IV., and created no little excitement and discussion at the time. In this article



he gives the mode and cost of mining the coal and the getting it to market. He gives three carefully taken sections of the strata at "Smith's bed," "Bowman's mine" and at "Blackman's bed." He attached a map showing that the coal formation "extends in a "S. S. Westerly direction, from its commencement at "the upper part of Lackawanna river, near the Wayne "county line, down the course of that river to its junction with the Susquehanna, thence along the Susquehanna, keeping chiefly the east side, leaving this last "river about eighteen miles below this place (Wilkes-Barré) it passes in a southward course to the headwaters of the Schuylkill river, etc., and from thence, "after its crossing three main branches, becomes lost, "a small seam of it only appearing at Peter's mountain, a few miles above Harrisburg." He then gives a list of the minerals found in this belt, together with the dip of the coal and superincumbent strata. He gives a list of rocks of which the gravel in the river's bed consists. Then follows a long description of the vegetable impressions. He gives the specific gravity of the coal exactly as it is accepted to-day, and is the first to call attention to the fact that the true fracture of the pure coal is conchoidal, and when appearing angular, lamellar and cubical it is due to impurities. Altogether the article is an exceedingly interesting one.

James Pierce, in an article in *Hazard's Register* in 1828, Vol. I., p. 314, says: "The valley of Wyoming and its valuable beds and veins of coal have been correctly described in No. I., Vol. IV., of the *Journal of Science* by Mr. Z. Cist,\* an able naturalist, whose recent death is lamented by all acquainted with his merit."

The correspondence here begun with Monsieur Brongniart continued until Mr. Cist's death. He sent a number of new species of fossil plants to Paris to M. Brongniart, who did him the courtesy to name them after him.† In sending some specimens of the coal flora to Prof. Silliman in 1825, Mr. Cist makes a strong point of urging the vegetable origin to the notice of the professor. See *Journal*, Vol. —. His pen was at an early date busy in suggesting plans to get the coal to market. He was one of the first to lend his hearty coöperation to the internal improvement of the State. He took a lively interest in all the meetings held in the eastern part of the State, and was one of the committee of correspondence and afterwards a delegate from Luzerne, together with Nathan Beach, to the State Convention, held at Harrisburg, in August, 1825. At first he was a strong advocate of the canal

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\*From the peculiar signature of Mr. Cist the "Jac." was frequently taken for "Zac."

†*Calamites Cistii*, Bgt. *Pecopteris Cistii*, Bgt. *Sigillaria Cistii*, Bgt. *Neuropteris Cistii*, Bgt.

system or a slack water navigation of the river. In writing to the *Baltimore American*, under date of December 5, 1822, he says: "From partial geological survey, the county of Luzerne possesses coal, level free, which estimated at the low rate of 25 cents per ton in the mine would amount to above one hundred millions of dollars, the value of which would be enhanced from twenty-five to thirty fold on its arrival at Baltimore or Philadelphia. In addition to the coal, level free, there is from ten to fifteen times that quantity accessible by the aid of steam engine, thus presenting an object alone sufficient to warrant the expense of rendering the river completely navigable, were the lumber, the wheat, pork, whiskey, iron and the long list of other articles thrown totally out of view."

As early as 1814 he corresponded with Oliver Evans as to the practicability of using a steam engine and railroad\* at the mines on the Lehigh. He ran the levels from here to Mauch Chunk for one, and at

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\*In a letter to Evans, written December, 1814, he says: "I would thank you also for an estimate of the expense of your *steam wagon* for drawing out a number of low carts, say twenty to twenty-five, each containing  $1\frac{1}{2}$  or 2 tons of coal, on a wooden railroad, with a descent of about  $\frac{1}{3}$  of an inch in a yard," (or 46 feet to mile). To which Mr. Evans answers from Washington, Jan. 3, 1815: "I would suppose that a descent of  $\frac{1}{3}$  inch to a yard could do without cogging the ways, which would save much expense. I had devised a cheap way of rising an ascent by means of a rope, as I apprehended no company could yet

the time of his death he was planning with a Mr. McCullough, of New Jersey, to organize a company to lay a railroad up the Lehigh to Wyoming valley. One of his daughters, when a little girl, at play in his study, remembers asking him "what he was so busy at," his answer was: "My child, I am building a railroad to pull things on over the mountain." Mr. McCullough, in writing to Mr. Hollenback shortly after Mr. Cist's death, intimates that in the death of Mr. Cist the railroad had met with its death, which was a fact.

In the year 1810 Jacob Cist, together with Jesse Fell, Matthias Hollenback, Thomas Dyer, Peleg Tracy and others, founded the Luzerne County Agricultural Society, and he, with Dr. Robert H. Rose, was one of the first corresponding secretaries of the society. He did much towards the introduction of finer grades of fruit trees in our valley, joining with Washington Lee, Charles Streater, E. Covell, Geo. Cahoon and many others of the old citizens of Wilkes-Barré and vicinity, who took pride and pleasure in their fruit gardens. He was accustomed every

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be formed in this country to lay iron and cogged railways for any distance. I therefore fixed on wooden ways, one for going, the other for coming back, as close to each other as will admit, and to cover the whole with a shed, this would, in the first making, cost little more than a Pennsylvania turnpike, and much less in 10 years. I cannot state to you the expense of a carriage."

year to get for himself and friends quantities of the choicest fruit trees. He knew the value of the New York gypsum as a fertilizer and advocated its superiority in a paper read before the State Agricultural Society, January 12, 1813. This article was republished in the *Record of the Times*, at Wilkes-Barré, January 8, 1868.

He was treasurer of the county of Luzerne for 1816, and treasurer of the Wilkes-Barré Bridge Company, 1816, 1817, 1818, of which he was one of the original stockholders and founders. He was one of the charter members of the old Susquehanna bank and its first cashier, appointed, 1817, at a salary of \$600. He drew the designs for the notes of the Bridge Company and of the bank.

He geologized this whole section of country for miles up and down the river, finding besides manganese and clays a number of iron beds, in many instances purchasing the land outright, in others only leasing, and at the time of his death he owned large bodies of iron lands. As early as 1815 he entered into an arrangement with Samuel Messemer, of Northampton county, Pa., and John Vernet, of New London, Conn., to establish iron works on the site of the present town of Shickshinny. In the year 1822 he entered into a similar arrangement with D. C. Woodin, but I cannot learn that anything ever came of either.

He early conceived the idea of preparing a work on American Entomology, and labored assiduously at this task until the year preceding his death, when it was so far completed, that he contemplated publishing it, and sent his manuscript with several thousand drawings to a well-known English scientist for inspection, the letter acknowledging its receipt, arrived in Wilkes-Barré after Mr. Cist's decease, but the manuscript and drawings have never been returned; they are now supposed to be in the collection of the East India Company, to whom the scientist left his collection at his death, some twenty years ago. He corresponded for a number of years with Prof. Say and Mr. Melsheimer, the latter writing on Entomology, under date October 6, 1818, speaking of the beauty and correctness of the drawing of insects by Mr. Cist, says: "Good and correct figures are "undoubtedly well calculated to advance the knowledge of Entomology. I am therefore the more "solicitous, that *you* would give to the world your "promising labor on, and accompanied with descriptions, etc., of, the North American insects. Such a "work would be very serviceable to the student of "American insects."

On the 15th of April, 1807, with Andrew and George Way, and others, he founded the Washington city glass-works, drawing all the plans himself. On

his settlement at Wilkes-Barré, he tried for several years to found glass-works and a pottery at that point, but failed, though he found within easy distance the clays, sand, manganese, etc., requisite to the successful carrying on of these enterprises.

Jacob Cist did not know what it was to be idle, he was busy from sunrise until late in the night, either at science, music, poetry or painting, and during business hours at his business; he was a man ahead of his times, and an enigma to the good people of Wilkes-Barré, who pretty generally thought him an enthusiast, who was wasting his time on bugs and stones. Many people have lived to judge differently of him, and to appreciate his worth.

He died on Friday, the 30th day of December, 1825, aged 43 years. An obituary notice published at the time, says: "In the death of Mr. Cist, "society has lost one of its most valuable members, "science one of its most ornamental and industrious "cultivators—and the cause of public and internal "improvements, one of its most able and zealous "supporters. Modest and unassuming in his manners, "he sought no political preferment—was ambitious "of no public distinction. But like a true lover of "science, sought her in her quiet paths of peace. His "researches into the geological structure and formation of our portion of the country, and particularly

"into the anthracite coal regions of Pennsylvania,  
"have been extensive and indefatigable; and while  
"they have contributed to enrich the cabinets of  
"many scientific men, both in this country and in  
"Europe, with mineralogical specimens, they have  
"also been a means of calling the attention of our  
"citizens to those vast mines of combustible treas-  
"ures with which our mountains abound, and which  
"we trust under Providence of giving employment  
"to thousands of industrious men and prosperity and  
"wealth to our county."

The other local paper says: "In the death of Mr.  
"Cist the community has sustained the loss of an  
"able and industrious supporter of the cause of  
"internal improvements. His indefatigable zeal in  
"devising and perfecting plans for the improvement  
"of our country by-roads and inland navigation, and  
"by disseminating a knowledge of the extent, situa-  
"tion and value of our extensive regions of coal, have  
"rendered him a public benefactor to our country.  
"As a lover of the arts and sciences, his loss will be  
"no less felt by those persons at home and abroad  
"with whom he has been so extensively connected  
"in their cultivation and support. Unambitious of  
"public distinction, he has sought to render himself  
"useful by devoting a considerable portion of his  
"time and services for the common benefit of his



"fellow citizens, and by them will his loss long be  
"regretted and his memory affectionately cherished."

Matthias Hollenback, the father of Mrs. Jacob Cist, was the grandson of George Hollenback, a German settler, "who owned lands and paid quit-rents prior to 1734," in the township of Hanover, Philadelphia (now Montgomery) county, Pa. John Hollenback, a son of George Hollenback, was born about 1720, and probably emigrated with his father to this country when but a lad. The date of his arrival in this country is not known, but it was before the year 1729. In 1750 John Hollenback took up land in Lebanon township, Lancaster (now Lebanon) county, Pa., and in 1772 removed from that section of country to Martinsburg, Berkeley county, Va., where he died. The wife of John Hollenback was Eleanor Jones, of Welsh descent. Matthias Hollenback, the second son of John Hollenback, was born at Jonestown, Lancaster (now Lebanon) county, February 17, 1752. He came to Wyoming in 1769, in a company of forty young men from that part of the country. They were Stewarts, Espys and others, and they came with the intention of settling and becoming citizens under Connecticut laws, and aiding the Yankees in keeping possession of this section of our State. They became entitled to lands under a grant from the Susquehanna Land Company, which they acquired after they had

been a short time in the valley. On their way to Wyoming the company encamped where Mauch Chunk is now situated, and after the coal interest had called into existence a thriving town there, Mr. Hollenback often humorously remarked that he ought to put in a claim to that place, for he was first in possession. The forty adventurers came into Wyoming through a notch of the mountains in what is now Hanover; and when the beautiful valley first broke upon their sight, young Hollenback, the youngest of the company, threw up his hat and exclaimed: "Hurrah, that's the place for me." He began business at Mill Creek, but soon removed to Wilkes-Barré; and having purchased a lot on what is now the west side of the Public square, built a large frame house for a store and dwelling. He purchased his goods in Philadelphia, which were taken to Middleton in wagons and then transported by water to this and other places, where he had established stores. The first method of transportation, was by Indian canoes; and he literally "paddled his own canoe" up the winding, rapid Susquehanna the whole distance, 150 miles, many times, before he was able to procure a more capacious vessel and to employ men to manage it. Then he purchased a Durham boat, which he kept steadily employed. The present road leading through the swamp, was but a little path. Mr. Hollenback in his business

enterprises was prospered in a remarkable manner, and soon acquired distinction and was promoted to positions of public trust and responsibility. On October 17, 1775, he was commissioned as ensign in the "train-band in the 24th regiment in His Majesty's colony of Connecticut." On August 26, 1776, he was appointed by Congress to serve as ensign in Captain Durkee's company of "minute-men," a band raised for the protection of the people in the valley; these Wyoming companies were subsequently ordered to join General Washington's army. Mr. Hollenback was with the army in New Jersey in 1776 and 1777, and took part in several battles. He was in the battles of Millstone, Trenton, Princeton and Brandywine. That he was a man of more than ordinary courage and tact, is evident from the fact that he was several times employed by Washington to visit the frontier settlements and outposts and report upon their condition. About the close of 1777, the settlement of Wyoming being menaced by the enemy, many of the men who were with the army came home, and among them was Mr. Hollenback.

During the spring of 1778 fears were entertained for the safety of the frontier settlement of Wyoming, and as summer approached a sense of insecurity and alarm pervaded the community. Frequent scouting-parties were sent out to ascertain the position of the

enemy. On the 1st of July, Mr. Hollenback, with a companion, was selected for the perilous duty. He proceeded sixteen miles up the river, where he came upon the fresh trail of the Indians and Tories on their march to attack the settlement; and discovered also the bodies of several settlers who had been killed and scalped; taking these bodies into his canoe, he immediately returned home and reported the presence of the enemy in great force. The inhabitants had already begun to assemble at Forty-Fort, and were actively preparing for the defense of the valley. On the 3d of July, under the command of Colonels Butler and Denison, the little band marched forth to the memorable battle of Wyoming. Mr. Hollenback took a prominent part in this tragic action, acquitting himself with great gallantry and honor. He escaped the terrible slaughter which followed the defeat of the settlers, and after many thrilling adventures and hardships reached his home late in the night.

From there he went directly to the fort situated on what is now the Public square of this city. He announced his name at the gate, heard it repeated within; "Hollenback has come," was the joyful exclamation. "No, no," responded the familiar voice of Nathan Carey, "you'll never see Hollenback again, he was on the right wing, I am sure he is killed." The gate was opened, however, and Mr. Hollenback

stepped in. It being dark, and there being no candles, Mr. Carey lit a pine knot to see if it was really Mr. Hollenback, and then, overwhelmed with joy, embraced him with a brother's affection. At four o'clock he set out on an Indian path to meet Spaulding with his seventy men, for the purpose of getting them into the fort at Wilkes-Barré. He met them at Bear creek, but Captain Spaulding declined the hazard. Mr. Hollenback, however, so far prevailed as to induce fifteen or twenty of the men to accompany him; on reaching the slope of the mountain near Prospect Rock, he discovered his own house on fire and savages in possession of the fort. Seeing all lost he promptly directed his energies to the relief of the sufferers. He had procured from Spaulding's commissary all the provisions he could pack on his horse, and following the fugitives, mostly women and children, he overtook them and led them through the wilderness. After a few weeks he returned to the valley and set about repairing his loss. His credit at Philadelphia being good, he obtained a few goods and began the world anew. He established his principal store at Wilkes-Barré, and branch stores at Tioga Point (now Athens), at Newtown (now Elmira) and at other places. He had partners in his various enterprises, several of whom in after years became prominent in the business world.

In 1791 he was the business-manager and purveyor for Pickering, while he was holding a treaty with the Indians at Newtown creek.

He was made a justice of the peace after the establishment of the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania in Wyoming, and when the new constitution was formed, was appointed an associate judge of Luzerne county, in which capacity he served until the time of his death, February 18, 1829, the day after he was 77 years of age. His first commission as lieutenant-colonel is dated in 1787, another is dated in 1792, and still another is dated in 1793. The first of them was given by the Executive Council of Pennsylvania, and bears the autograph of Benjamin Franklin. He was a member of the board of trustees of the old Wilkes-Barré academy from 1807 to 1829, and was the first treasurer of Luzerne county. Colonel Hollenback always took great interest in religious affairs and the welfare of the church. He gave largely towards building the first church built in Wilkes-Barré, and was generally punctual in his attendance upon the services. His home was the home of ministers, and his hand always open to them. He was in many respects an extraordinary man, endowed with great capacity and courage, and with an indomitable will which overcame all obstacles. In all his business relations he was a pattern of punctuality,

scrupulously faithful to public trusts and private confidence. His powers of endurance were very remarkable, he took all his journeys on horseback, and his business interest called him from Niagara to Philadelphia. Between Wyoming and the New York state line he owned immense tracts of wild land which he often visited unattended, traveling for days and even weeks through the wilds of Northern Pennsylvania, and being as much at home in the wilderness as in his counting-room.

Judge Hollenback exerted much influence upon the progress and elevation of the country. He provided employment for many poor laborers, he furnished supplies to multitudes of new settlers, he took an active part in the early public improvements, he kept in circulation a large capital; and he was a living, almost ever-present example of industry and economy. Not Wyoming alone, but the whole country between Wilkes-Barré and Elmira, owes much of its early development and present prosperity to the business arrangements and the indomitable perseverance of Matthias Hollenback. Judge Hollenback was employed by Robert Morris, the agent of Louis the sixteenth, to provide a place of retreat for the royal household at some secluded spot on the Susquehanna. This was in 1793. He accordingly purchased 1200 acres of land lying in the present

county of Bradford (then Luzerne), and embracing the locality where Frenchtown, in the township of Asylum, was subsequently built. The unfortunate monarch, however, never occupied this asylum in the wilds of Pennsylvania, albeit many of his subjects did. Louis Philippe, the late "King of the French," in 1795, came through "the Wind Gap" on horseback to Wilkes-Barré, and then made his way up to Frenchtown.

The only son of Judge Hollenback, and the brother of Mrs. Jacob Cist, was George Matson Hollenback, who, inheriting a large fortune from his father, succeeded him in many of his business pursuits. In 1820 and 1821 he was treasurer of the county of Luzerne. In 1824 and 1825 he represented the same county in the Legislature of the State. In 1842 he was appointed by Gov. Porter one of the canal commissioners of the State, but his other business affairs allowed him to hold the commission but a short time. He was president of the Wyoming bank at the time of his decease, Nov. 7, 1866, and had occupied that responsible position for more than thirty years, and for nearly a half century was connected with all the public affairs of the Wyoming valley.

Harrison Wright, the subject of our sketch, was the eldest son of Harrison Wright and Emily Cist. He early developed those mental traits which charac-



terized his maturer manhood. Before he was fifteen years of age he had acquired a marked taste for history and the natural sciences, and he formed at that time an interesting cabinet of specimens and objects illustrative of his several pursuits.

After a preparatory course of study at his home, he was, in 1867, matriculated as a student of Philosophy at the university of Heidelberg, Germany. Upon the completion of four years of studious application in his chosen branches of learning, he was graduated in the spring of 1871, with the degrees of Master of Arts, and Doctor of Philosophy. During his course at the university he became remarkably proficient in the German language and literature, and his natural aptitude for languages led him to the study of the French and Italian tongues, with both of which he became familiar.

His especial study at Heidelberg was mineralogy; his excellence in his pursuit of this science induced his preceptor, the late Professor Blum—the leading mineralogist of his time—to select Mr. Wright as assistant professor of mineralogy; but a prolonged summer's absence from the university led to the appointment of another.

Much of his time during vacation was spent in travel; he visited many of the capitals of Europe, and in seeking needed relaxation from the duties of the

university, he acquired much practical knowledge of the customs and manners of the several countries. During the time he spent in Rome, he studied the archæology and explored many of the remains of the Ancient City. In this research he became associated with the members of the Archæological Society of Rome, who, in appreciation of his tastes and scholarly attainments, elected him a member of their society. He became also an honorary member of the Papal Club, a social organization of the officers of the Papal Guard.

He returned to America in the summer of 1871, and in the following autumn he entered as a student of law the office of his uncle, Andrew T. McClintock, LL. D., of this city. After the prescribed course of study, during which he exhibited as marked aptitude for the dry precepts of the law, as for the more congenial researches in literature and science, he was admitted to the bar of Luzerne county, September 14, 1874, under circumstances, which afforded ample assurance of his distinguished success in a profession to which his family had contributed several able members. But he, however, was attached to a vocation which offered distinction of a different kind, and soon abandoned the active practice of the law; but not until he had gained great credit and commendation for his able services as one of three auditors appointed

by the court to make a special examination of the accounts of the county; a work which involved the minutest inquiry into its financial affairs for the preceding seven years, and the auditing of all the accounts in their multitudinous details; the practical results of which were the recovery of a large sum of money, and the exposure and punishment of the parties guilty of the embezzlement.

Mr. Wright was a democrat in politics, and like all his father's family, positive in his convictions. In a number of campaigns he accepted and intelligently and satisfactorily acquitted himself of the city contingent of the party. In this way he won the confidence and esteem of the members of his party, who repeatedly solicited him to accept political honors, but these offers, like the law, failed to lure him from the pursuits upon which his heart and ambition had long been set. He was once regularly nominated for a seat in the Legislature, with such unanimity and cordiality as would almost certainly have insured his election, but, though willing to do service in the ranks whenever called upon, he peremptorily declined this proffered and well deserved reward. His leaning, in part inherited as I have already said, manifested in early youth and encouraged and intensified by his education, was towards literary and scientific pursuits. To these he gave much attention,

even when studying and practicing law. He became a member of this society, was immediately assigned a leading position in it, and found here a fruitful field for the employment of his varied talents. He took charge of and arranged its extensive mineralogical and other collections, adding to them from his own rich private stores and assiduously gathering valuable contributions from other sources. He prepared numerous papers of much value and interest on a diversity of subjects, he accumulated by persistent research many previously undiscovered facts in the history of the valley and of the coal-trade, until every material incident of each—so thorough was his study and so retentive his memory—was before him like the words upon a printed page, which enabled him at all time to answer with great clearness and accuracy all inquiries, concerning either of these subjects. When the late Isaac S. Osterhout decided upon his munificent bequest for the founding of a public library in Wilkes-Barré, Harrison Wright was in the midst of these labors and had achieved the reputation of being perhaps the best historical and scientific authority in the community, and the testator's thoughts naturally turned to him as one fitted in all respects to take a leading part in executing the trust, and he appointed him one of the trustees. Had he lived, he would have been of inestimable service in

the preliminary arrangements for and securing the practical operation of the library is accordance with the generous designs of its founder.

All who knew Harrison Wright must have been impressed with his unselfish and generous disposition, his genial companionship, his thoughtful and kindly consideration in all his relationships and his warm and true friendship, as well as by his scholarly attainments, the wide scope of his mental powers and his extended and accurate learning in many and diverse branches of human knowledge. His time, his talents and his means were but instruments toward the attainment of his honorable ambition, the endeavor to let light in where darkness had previously prevailed and open thoroughfares in the hitherto trackless places in history and science. And in the everyday relations of life, there are many who could attest that his generosity was only bounded by his ability to give. His capacity for labor—the exacting labor of the fields to which his inclinations led him—was exceptionable. He did not deny himself reasonable recreation, but what he esteemed to be his duty was never permitted to wait upon pleasures to which he was invited, and the secrets of his success and of the results achieved in so short a lifetime were his steadfastness of purpose and his continuity of application. Where his strong sympathies led, his energies followed.

When there was a new duty to be performed, he was never too overburdened to undertake it, though other tasks in various stages of progress were piled high before him.

It is not often that we can speak thus in praise of the achievements of one so young as Harrison Wright was when he died, and yet abide within the strict limits of the truth, but our friend was one among a thousand. His sudden and generally unexpected departure from among us has left a void in our ranks it will be difficult, if not impossible, to fill. It is inexcusably ungrateful in the midst of the many and munificent providences, to speak of any earthly loss as irreparable, but the loss of Harrison Wright to this society is as nearly irreparable as any loss could be.

## BRIEF REVIEW OF THE LITERARY WORK OF HARRISON WRIGHT, PH. D.

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[ By SHELDON REYNOLDS, M. A. ]

It has been well said that the worth of an individual, the value to be placed on his life-work, cannot be determined until the work is finished—finished in the sense of ended. When, however, the work is ended almost at its beginning, after the intellectual faculties have attained a development adequate for the purposes intended, and the mind, expanded and cultivated, garners the results of patient research and observation in careful preparation for future work; when thus equipped and ready to set out, one is at the threshold called away, the promise of such a life becomes a potent element in the appreciation of its true value. That which has been accomplished may be computed more or less correctly by an examination of its merits and defects; but the promise, the possibilities of the future, must be judged not only by the work performed, but also by the efficiency of preparation, the capabilities of the intellectual faculties, and the circumstances having relation to the results. In the present instance are found all the evidences by which

to arrive at an exalted judgment, and the several elements which gave assurance of a useful and brilliant future.

Dr. Wright in his early youth evinced a taste for American history and the kindred subjects of American archæology and genealogy, which subsequently gave a bent to his literary pursuits; though general literature, also, and the natural sciences possessed a charm for his mind and occupied a share of his attention.

It is not the purpose of this note to do more than briefly mention the few essays and papers which have come under my observation.

"Early Shad Fisheries of the North Branch of the Susquehanna River," "A Memorandum Description of the Finer Specimens of Indian Earthenware Pots in the Collections of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society," "Report of the Special Archæological Committee on the Athens (Pa.) Locality," and "Circular of Inquiry Respecting the Old Wilkes-Barré Academy" have all been published.

The first is a concise narrative of the important facts concerning that traditionary industry, shad fishing—still cherished in the memory of many old settlers—which partook partly of the character of business, and somewhat also of the nature of



sport, with a flavor of home-stilled whiskey, if we may ascribe such tastes to a generation of correct habits. It contains much of local interest and many valuable facts drawn from all available sources, particularly useful at the present time in connection with the attempt to restore shad to the waters of the Susquehanna. It has been published in the *Bulletin of the U. S. Fish Commission*.

The second is a description of the Indian pottery in the possession of this society, illustrated with heliotype plates, thus rendering the specimens available for study and comparison to those interested in the subject, by whom it was received with many expressions of favor.

"The Report of the Special Archæological Committee" is an account of the excavations made by the committee at Athens, Pa., and the result of its work; it is published with plates in Part I, of Vol. II, of the Society's Proceedings and Collections. All the details are carefully noted, the relative position of each object and the condition under which found are recorded, together with an accurate description of the several articles of pottery, ornament and utensil which were obtained. The result of the work was the addition of the valuable Tioga pottery to the Society's collection, and the accumulation of many interesting facts concerning the methods of burial among the aborigines.

"The Circular of Inquiry Respecting the Old Wilkes-Barré Academy" was compiled from manuscript documents lately discovered, and published in pamphlet form for the purpose of eliciting information sufficient to warrant the writing of the history of that institution. The school was incorporated in 1807, and for many years was the foremost seat of learning in this section of the State. Many of the men who were connected with the institution in its management or as pupils attained eminence in the law, theology, or literature; others contributed toward the material development of the country, and left as monuments of their indomitable energy and intelligent forecast, the numerous coal-breakers, the railroads, and canals of this region. The circular comprises a sketch of the school and a list of scholars, and is accompanied by a broadside containing brief biographical sketches of the forty-six men who served in the board of trustees from 1807 to 1838. Many additional facts were gathered by this means, and the contemplated work was begun, but the time proved too short for its completion.

Passing to the unpublished and unfinished works, the first in order of importance is "A Genealogical and Biographical Record of the Descendants of John Jacob Weiss, of the Village of Walheim, Kingdom of Würtemberg, who settled in Philadelphia, A. D.

1740." containing also the genealogies of the Cist, Hollenback, Wright, and other related families. The compilation of the facts involved a large correspondence, continuing through several years, and the search of many volumes of records, as well as the examination and arrangement of a mass of evidence. The several biographical sketches of the prominent members of the families which appear in the work, are written with care and discrimination, and incidentally review many subjects of contemporaneous local and general history. The work possesses much merit, and is a witness to the industrious research, application and critical discernment of the author. It was to have been privately printed for distribution among the members of the several families, and its preparation had so far progressed as to be nearly ready for the press.

"Early Printing," a lecture recently delivered before the Young Men's Christian Association of this city, had been re-written and amplified with the view of publication. It begins with an account of the art of the transfer of form by impression, drawn from biblical and other writers, and the discoveries of archæologists. The conditions of libraries at the time of the Christian Era, the number of works issued and manner of publication are reviewed. Continuing, it narrates the decline of letters during the

Dark Ages, with the causes and effects of such decline and the circumstances of their revival with the dawn of the art of printing, together with a view of the causes and conditions which led up to and rendered possible the great discovery. This is followed by an account of the art in its early stages of development. The subject is treated in an original and attractive manner which sustains the interest throughout. It evinces a thorough knowledge of the works of the classical writers and contemporaneous events of history. The lecture was illustrated by means of a large collection of rare specimens of early printing as well as unique and beautiful manuscripts, which he had secured during his residence of several years at Heidelberg and Rome.

"Anthracite Coal and the Beginning of the Coal Trade," in its scientific aspect as well as in relation to its historical circumstances, was an interesting field of study. A great deal has been written on the subject during the preceding quarter of a century, and many errors and misstatements of facts have from time to time appeared in print and subsequently found a place in encyclopædias and other books of reference. It has been said that the coal-trade first began in 1820, in the Lehigh region; there are books and charts which seem to sustain this statement; nevertheless it is an error. The continuing industry

of the mining of anthracite coal had its rise in the Wyoming region in 1807, and had been in operation continuously for several years before its establishment on the Lehigh; mines had been opened, a market for the product established in the towns of the lower Susquehanna and regularly supplied with the fuel, and in 1812 its introduction to the market of New York city was effected. It is true, that the subject has been treated by competent writers, notably by the late Volney L. Maxwell, Esq., in two admirable lectures which were delivered before this society, and issued from the press as "Publication No. 1," of the Society; the historical view of the matter, however, is somewhat meager, owing perhaps to the lack of material at hand, or to the fact that the character of the address did not require its further elucidation. Also by Dr. Charles F. Ingham, and Wm. P. Miner, Esq., in the "History of Luzerne, Lackawanna and Wyoming Counties;" the one ably treats of the geology of the Wyoming coal-field, while the other discusses with his accustomed felicity the inception and development of the coal-trade. None of them, however, was designed to be a history. Previous to the publication of the latter, Dr. Wright had begun the preparation of a work of a scope and compass sufficient for the presentation of the subject in all necessary detail; with this purpose he had

gathered a large amount of data, much of it being the valuable papers of his grandfather, the late Jacob Cist, Esq., a gentleman of acknowledged scientific attainments, whose name is prominently connected with the industry through his arduous efforts in its early development. Dr. Wright had collected a mass of material and elaborated his plans for carrying into execution the undertaking in hand, but the demands upon his time, caused by the attention he necessarily gave to other literary work and his usual affairs of business retarded the completion of this work, which was intended to be exhaustive in its treatment and authoritative in its conclusions.

"The Report to the Minister of Public Instruction and Fine Arts," and the "Observations of the Very Ancient MSS. of the Libri Collection," by M. Delisle, Administrator General of the National Library of France, in which the brilliant essayist demonstrates by an argument singularly satisfactory and convincing that a large number of the manuscripts of the celebrated Ashburnham collection was stolen from the libraries of France, were translated by Dr. Wright and widely circulated in this country to further the purpose of M. Delisle in acquainting all probable purchasers with the stigma attaching to these stolen manuscripts, and to that extent preserving to France the opportunity of recovering them. The translation is in a large

degree literal, while all the clearness of diction and strength of argument are preserved. This work was prompted by his keen appreciation of the enhanced value of these manuscripts when restored to their proper places, and the dishonor which would taint them in the possession of an American purchaser. The brochures were received with many complimentary notices and general commendation by the press of the country, and appreciative acknowledgments by learned societies; and it is believed they accomplished the purpose intended. In acknowledgment of his services, and—to quote the words of M. Delisle—"the zeal with which he defended the cause of the public libraries of France," he received the thanks of the Minister of Public Instruction and Fine Arts, and of the Administrator General of the National Library of France, together with other marks of their distinguished favor.

A third translation on the same subject which he had prepared, entitled "Observations on many MSS. of the Barrois Collection," consisting of ninety-one closely written pages, had not been published, though completed.

Another translation worthy of remark is entitled "Emblemata, or Inscriptions on Certain Noteworthy Gold and Silver Coins of German Potentates and Rulers, with a Short Description of the Same,"

from the German of John Leonhard Weidner. An abstract of this paper was read before the Society; it consists of eighty pages of manuscript. Several years since Dr. Wright presented to the Society a valuable cabinet, containing many of the silver coins of Germany which he had collected with care and discrimination during his residence abroad; for the purpose of illustrating these and to facilitate their classification, he prepared the paper mentioned, which by his familiarity with the German tongue and history and his knowledge of the science of numismatics entered a congenial and easy task.

A mind devoted to the study and contemplation of subjects of scientific and historical interest and occupied in the formulation and expression of the opinions and conclusions therefrom, seldom turns to the composition of lighter literature even for diversion or recreation. A pen which elucidates the geological geology of the coal-measures, or traces the cause and effect of events of history, or states the reasons for crude facts of ethnology and archæology, is able to fail in the delineation of the plot of a romance, or in portraying the humorous incidents of a adventure, yet such was his versatility that he could at any time be turned from the one to the other. One of his later productions is "Walpurga, A Tale of the Middle Ages," it introduces us to the festivities



of the tournaments at Nürnberg in the time of the twelfth century, and affords a brief acquaintance with the heroes of the Crusades, engaging the interest of the reader by descriptions of quaint customs and glimpses of the social condition of the people. Walpurga, the heroine, might indeed, even in the unromantic days of the nineteenth century, find a knight to break a lance in her behalf.

"Bill Simpson" is the title of an adventure among the miners in Colorado. The plot, so far as it is disclosed in the unfinished state of the narrative, presents much ingenuity, and, like its author, has the faculty of evolving many honorable traits in characters which seem unpromising enough at first acquaintance. It was doubtless suggested by his own experiences among the people of the region mentioned.

"The Diamond, A Story of the time of Caliph Al Mamun," is a highly interesting tale of the loss of a rare gem; tracing it to the possession of its many successive claimants, and enlisting in its pursuit the aid and sympathy of a multitude of people, it reaches the climax of the ever-increasing excitement and confusion in the ludicrous discovery, upon the finding of the object of search, that it is but a worthless imitation, the real gem meanwhile being in a secure place. The story abounds in animated description and

dramatic incident, and is told in a quaint manner suited to the time and circumstances of the plot.

A poem of twenty-six stanzas, descriptive of the battle and massacre of Wyoming, and a dozen or more shorter ones treating of the incidents of the battle and the flight, are comprised in the title "Rejected Poems," which were designed originally to have been published in one of the local papers, with the intimation, as suggested in their title, that they had been declined by the publishing committee of the centennial of 1878. The title was an intentional misnomer. One of the concluding stanzas seems to me to summarize with such incisive irony the Tory commander's official report, that I quote:

"John Butler's tale of victory  
Is told in briefer words,  
'A thousand cattle we have taken,  
'Sheep and swine in countless herds;  
'The rebel forts are overturned  
'And all their mills and houses burned,  
'The nest no more shall thrive.  
'Eleven score or more, we're told,  
'Of scalps our Indian allies hold—  
'Ready to change for British gold—  
'And prisoners—we have five!'"

In addition to these, thus hastily sketched, there is a number of articles in various stages of preparation: a compilation of local superstitions, and other folk-lore; sketches of the early settlement of the valley, introducing the locally historic characters, and

giving a view of the every-day life of the men and women who endured the privations and hardships of a century ago; and contributions to periodicals and book reviews.

In his lighter composition there is apparent a delicacy of touch, and an unobtrusive element of strength running throughout the whole; while a pervading spirit of benevolence, like the subtle haze on a landscape, softens the outlines and lends a charm to all his conceptions. In reading them, one becomes conscious that they are the productions of a mind of quick sensibilities and of matured faculties.

From this imperfect review we may know that the life of our lamented friend was one of continued mental activity; that during the brief period allotted to his mortal existence he had accomplished much of lasting value and worthy of high commendation; and that his future was full of promise. Had his life been spared, the full realization of his honorable aspirations would have crowned his endeavors. But in the midst of his work he was cut down; in the enjoyment of his ample mental powers, and in the bloom of manhood

“God's finger touched him, and he slept.”

## DR. HARRISON WRIGHT.

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The souls that were brave, and whose footsteps were dutiful,  
And love was the light they shed,  
Whose deeds made their lives, when living, beautiful,  
Surely these are the Beautiful Dead.

And lo! 'mong the noble of memory's numbering,  
Some lives, so surpassing fair!  
Like the roses that bloom, while the dead are slumbering,  
Their beauty forbids despair.

Of such was the friend of the choosing and cherishing,  
Alike of the young and the old —  
Friendship, sweet in the leaf, as after the perishing,  
And at heart, as fragrant to hold!

Oh! flower of filial love's fondest engendering,  
Fearless glance of immortal, kind eyes!  
Oh! smile of the brave, all self-love surrendering!  
Kind voice! the heart's pleasant surprise.

Kind eyes! and yet keen, that turned so forbearingly  
From the bad to the good in a friend!  
Rare, gifted intelligence! smiting not sparingly  
The wares the false teacher would vend.

He loitered not where the lotus was flowering,  
And fled from the blight of its bloom ;  
But he loved the bright dreams of Nature's own dowering,  
A stranger to grief and to gloom !

For him all beauty was ever in blossoming —  
His mind was a garden in bloom !  
And Science, to him her secrets unbosoming,  
Were legend most meet for his tomb.

His tireless quest, the honey of history,  
For winters ahead, had hived ;  
And of fading traditions—despite Death's mystery,  
Say not he was short-lived.

A light indistinct Death's deeps are borrowing —  
'Tis the Dawn, with its deathless rays !  
Yet we weep, and for soul so lovable sorrowing,  
Every tear is a pearl of praise !

The heart that was brave, and whose friendship was beautiful,  
The spirit such lustre that shed,  
Now reaps the reward of the wise and the dutiful,  
In the home of the Beautiful Dead.

D. M. JONES.



## PART II.





## BAR OF LUZERNE COUNTY.

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A meeting of the Luzerne Bar was held February 23, 1885, in the room of the Bar Association, to take action on the death of the late Harrison Wright, Esq.

Judge Stanley Woodward was called to the chair, and H. A. Fuller, Esq., was made secretary. On assuming the chairmanship Judge Woodward said:

*Gentlemen of the Bar:* In making to this meeting the formal announcement of the death of Mr. Harrison Wright, I perform one of the saddest duties of my life. And I am well aware that my own feeling at this time is not peculiar or personal only, but that a common sentiment and sense of loss fills all hearts. For our deceased friend and brother, although among the youngest members of this bar, was still old enough to have become one of the most familiar, as well as one of the most respected and beloved characters in the community of which we are all members.

And it would seem, too, that the modesty and quiet simplicity which characterized our deceased friend, were the very qualities which brought him into full view. Because he constantly and consistently

AM.

...nition; never obtruded  
... always declined social  
... these and other reasons  
... ht was an unusual and

... death, after an illness so  
... sed him to be missed  
... came upon us with  
... nt recalled to my mind  
... son Wright, the father  
... red nearly thirty years  
... r, full of vital force,  
... ally identified with the  
... great county, which he  
... ted in the legislature of  
... He was called away in  
... rty-one, and his death  
... and in the community at

... hose honor we are now  
... ve years of age, and  
... d gifted by nature with  
... that acute appreciation  
... in the long run, brings  
... ss, had never been an  
... Somewhat because of  
... haps, in response to the

dictates of an inborn taste, he was a scientific and literary man, rather than a lawyer. His studies were broad, curious, comprehensive and unselfish: Science in many of its departments, including mineralogy, numismatics, statistics and chronology, was his delight. His knowledge of the languages was great. His fund of information in all matters pertaining to our local history was well nigh inexhaustible.

It is not to be wondered at that such a man should have preferred the quietude of the library, to the hurly-burly of the court-room. Antagonism and conflict grated harshly upon the chords of a soul fitted as was his, for the sweet concords and gentle harmonies of nature and the fireside. His labors for our Historical Society were constant and proverbial, and they were altogether labors of love. His interest and membership in many of the most prominent scientific associations of this country and of other countries, indicate the aspirations and tendencies of his mind.

The necessary limits of such an informal tribute as can be made on an occasion like this, forbid me to go more fully into the history of the life and character of our deceased brother. This will be done elsewhere. But no notice of him, no matter how imperfect it must be, would be worthy even of this occasion, which should fail to recall him as a most

polished, considerate, and attractive gentleman. It is not my wish, even in the exuberance of fresh grief, to say one word of our friend, which the colder judgment of a later day will not approve. But thus restrained, I feel that I speak for all those who knew him well, when I say, that he was a most genial companion and a most generous and agreeable friend. He rejoiced in being able to make others happy. He was incapable of a mean or an unrighteous act. He was too great a man to do a small thing, or to do a great thing in a small way. For all these reasons, and not because he sought for popularity, he was perhaps the most popular citizen in the community. His death will be most deeply felt in the family circle of which he was the center. Within that sacred precinct the sense of bereavement is too great for words. And in that social circle of which he was the most conspicuous figure, his loss will prove an affliction great and irreparable.

"For open converse is there none,  
So much the vital spirits sink  
To see the vacant chair and think  
How good! how kind! and he is gone."

Judge Dana followed in a heartfelt tribute to the deceased. He felt that he could add but little to the very beautiful synopsis of the character of Mr. Wright, just given by the chairman. He knew him

very long and very favorably. He was a modest man. In fact, modesty was a most distinctly marked feature in him, and it has been truly remarked that "modesty is the candle of merit." He remembered him soon after returning from the war, as a slim, black-eyed youth, who asked for the address of several famous generals. He was then making a collection of autographs, showing at that age a taste for the work to which in after years he devoted so much attention. He had a wonderful power of acquisition of knowledge, especially so in historical and scientific matters. Neither was his knowledge superficial, although embracing such a wide range of subjects. It was precise in everything. As a warm personal friend no one excelled him. He was remarkable for his truth, his purity and all absence of personality. It was a pity that he did not apply himself to the practice of law. His talents, his universal historical knowledge, his fine personal appearance, would have placed him in a front position at the bar. As a member of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society his loss will be beyond repair. He was relied upon as a part of the institution. The Osterhout library will greatly feel his loss, for to him was generally accorded the superintendency of that work.

Judge Dana then moved the appointment of a committee of three, to draft a suitable preamble and

resolutions. The chair appointed Judges Dana and Rice, and G. R. Bedford, Esq. They reported the following:

The death of Dr. Harrison Wright at his residence in this city, on Friday morning, the 20th inst., has caused a deep and general feeling of regret. Throughout the wide sphere of his business, intellectual and social activities, there is a sense of the loss of one esteemed for his worth and works, and loved for those qualities which endeared him to all as a friend and associate. Although not an active, he was nevertheless a learned and esteemed member of the bar of Luzerne county, and it is therefore meet that public and formal expression be given of its esteem for his worth and of regret over his death.

The full and favorable notices which have appeared in the press of this and other cities, and the memorial volume which will be hereafter issued, make it unnecessary to present on this occasion more than a brief summary of his life and character.

He was born in this city on the 15th day of July, 1850, and had, therefore, not completed his 35th year. His father, Harrison Wright, a brilliant advocate and leading member of the bar, died in 1856, at the early age of forty-one years. He was a nephew of the Hon. Hendrick B. Wright, lately deceased, and of

the Hon. Caleb E. Wright, now of Doylestown, Pennsylvania, both of whom were also active and leading members of the bar.

The Wrights came from England in 1681 with William Penn's colony of Quaker emigrants and settled in New Jersey, whence Joseph Wright, the grandfather of the deceased, removed at an early day to Wyoming valley, and up to the time of his death was a resident and esteemed citizen of the township of Plymouth.

Mrs. Emily L. Wright, the mother of the deceased, was a daughter of Jacob Cist, Esq., a gentleman of much enterprise, of marked intellectual and scientific attainments, and a pioneer in directing attention to and developing the anthracite coal-fields of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Wright's mother was a daughter of Judge Matthias Hollenback, one of the few survivors of the Wyoming massacre of July 3d, 1778, and who after that event continued to reside in Wilkes-Barré, and was known as one of her most prominent citizens and wealthiest merchants.

In Mr. Wright's boyhood pulmonary symptoms appeared, and from impaired health, his early studies in school were frequently interrupted. A residence for a year in Santa Cruz arrested the further progress of disease, and on his return, in 1866, he was sent in the spring of 1867 to the university of Heidelberg,

in Germany, where, after a course of four years of diligent study, he graduated with high honors as Doctor of Philosophy in the spring of 1871. In addition to his classical attainments, and to his thorough knowledge of the German, French and Italian languages, he excelled in chemistry, mineralogy, metallurgy and geology. Parts of his vacations were occupied in extended tours in pursuit of these studies through different districts in Europe. One of these vacations, however, was employed in following, at no small risk, in the wake of the Prussian army, and in visits to many of the battle-fields of the Franco-Prussian war, yet reeking in the blood of the slain, and ere the smoke of the conflict had cleared away.

Returning home, he entered the office of A. T. McClintock, Esq., as a student of law, and was admitted to the bar, September 14th, 1874. He combined in person, voice, manners, intellectual acquirements, and ready command of language, every requisite of the successful advocate; but an aversion to forensic effort, led him to restrict his legal labors to the investigation of land titles, and especially to those involving questions of historical interests. He was thoroughly conversant with the facts and the law connected with the titles derived through the Connecticut claimants in the seventeen townships.



His tastes and previous studies specially qualified him for the work of classifying and arranging the specimens and manuscripts in the cabinets and library of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society. This he undertook and persistently continued up to the very close of life; and his energy and enthusiasm infused new life into that institution, increased its membership and funds, and contributed largely to assure its permanence and an honorable place among the scientific and learned societies of the land. That his attainments in science and history were widely recognized, his membership in a long list of learned societies in this State and elsewhere attests.

The several merits developed during long years in the ancestral stock whence he sprang, seem to have been combined, transmitted, and to have blossomed into great promise in the character of Dr. Wright. Truth, honesty, purity, a high sense of honor, natural intellectual endowments, increased by broad culture, industry, persistent application, an aptitude to learn united with tenacity of memory to retain, were among his characteristics.

Whilst history and science were his favorite studies, his mental horizon inclosed every subject of large human interests. He exemplified the declaration of Cicero: *Homo sum, humani nihil a me alienum puto.*

He was the center of a large circle of friends, and although positive in his opinions, and frank and fearless in their expression, he made no enemies. His honesty disarmed hostility, his respect for the feelings of others restrained him from personalities, so that he could condemn offense without needlessly wounding an offender.

He was a diligent reader, and a judicious collector of books. They were his loved and cherished companions, and he was wisely selected as one of the trustees of the Osterhout library, and principally relied on to organize and accomplish the work devolved upon them.

Rarely in so short a life has so much been attained. But the resistless hand of death has arrested him in the morning of his usefulness, and a sad, though beautiful memory remains of a life of much performance and of larger promise.

It is thereupon by the bar of Luzerne county

*Resolved,* That in the death of Dr. Harrison Wright we recognize with sorrow the loss of an esteemed and learned member, associate and friend, and of an upright citizen.

*Resolved,* That we deeply sympathize with the stricken mother, brother and sisters of the deceased in their bereavement, and that an attested copy of the

foregoing preamble and resolutions be sent to them, and also that a copy be published in the papers of the county.

*Resolved*, That the members of the bench and bar, wearing the usual badge of mourning, will in a body attend the funeral of our late associate and friend.

On a motion to adopt the report, Judge Rice spoke: He could add nothing to the beautiful tributes which had been paid to the deceased brother, but he desired to give his personal testimony to the truthfulness of what had been said. Together with another gentleman he had been thrown in close contact with Harrison Wright for a period of some two years, in a work the duties of which were neither pleasant nor profitable. They were duties, however, of such a kind as were bound to develop positive traits of character, if a man had them. Dr. Wright had them, as I soon found out. During this work I became impressed with his universal knowledge of literary and scientific matters. There were other traits of character developed while we were thus thrown together, which showed him to be a true man. He was entirely unselfish. He was a pure and honorable man. He was simple in all his ways. Unfortunately for the bar he did not practice the profession of the law, but it was not unfortunate for scientific and

literary societies or for the community that he did not do so. He became highly useful in ways that a man less modest and less unselfish would never have sought. While he became a man of great popularity, it was not by reason of negative qualities. He was a positive man, and he followed his convictions wherever they might lead him, and he was possessed of such convictions as ennoble and exalt.

A. R. Brundage spoke of one thing which had recently come to his attention, which he conceived to be the crowning feature of the beauty of his whole life. It was his devotion to his aged mother. To all who knew of it and had witnessed it, whether at home or abroad, it seemed sublime. In the midst of exacting duties he never neglected her. It was a pleasure to him to minister to her wants, and his devotion to her was never once placed in the background by his love of books or research.

George R. Bedford then said:

*Mr. Chairman:* I cannot hope to add anything to the mournful interest of this occasion, but my acquaintance with our friend was of so long standing, my admiration of his character so great, my estimate of his abilities and his acquirements so high, and my sorrow at his death so sincere, that I feel constrained to offer this humble tribute to his memory. I was a

member of the board which examined him for admission to the bar, and his thorough preparation gave promise of high standing in the profession, but his tastes led him rather in paths of scientific research, and in that line his attainments were prodigious. So anxious was he that his knowledge should benefit others that not only did he take an active and leading part in the organized societies with which he was connected, but in addition he had at different times gathered together the children of his neighbors in an Agassiz class, and thoroughly instructed them in that branch of natural science, wherein the great professor made his fame. His services to the Historical and Geological Society are beyond estimate. Without them that enterprise, we all know, proved a failure, but with them, its lost vitality was restored and its success assured, and it exists to-day a monument to his memory, reflecting credit on this whole city. Though our friend was of pronounced convictions on all subjects and ready to assign reasons for the faith that was in him, yet he was never offensive in expressing his opinions. His simple-heartedness, his warm nature and pure mind made him a very winning character. He has left vacant a place in this community, but more than all else by his mother's side, which can never be filled. He commanded the respect and the love of large numbers of the people

of this city, and they will join in the prayer wafted to heaven this day that his spirit may rest in eternal peace.

The following letter from General McCartney, who was absent, was read:

WILKES-BARRÉ, PA., February 21st, 1885.

MY DEAR SIR:—I very much regret that I shall not be able to attend the bar meeting next Monday, which I hear, will take action on the death of Harrison Wright.

I crave permission to go on the record as one of his late friends and as one of his very numerous and sincere mourners. Had the death angel picked from all the world, outside of my nearest relatives, it could not have struck me a more painful blow.

To me it seems most like a most terrible dream. Only ten days since, I passed an hour with him, and there was the same apparent health of mind and body, the same unselfishness, the same distinguished but unobtrusive acquirements, the same charity and forbearance, and the same old charm of intercourse that so many of us have known and enjoyed for many a day.

And now, he has gone, noble and generous soul!

It is common and easy to extol most dead men, him we could not disparage if we would. I knew

something of his inner life, so fair and manly. Living, he sought not the mere praise of lips, but the right, and the love that right begets. Dead, I shall not attempt his praise, our love shall go with him to the hereafter. He has gone without a parting word, and they tell us all this is right. We shall miss him and mourn for him, even as we stand and wait for the inevitable summons.

There is only this consolation; men are very rare, so strong and gentle, so accomplished and modest, and he was my friend; we shall look beyond the grave border, we shall still live together in comforting recollections, and if from the heavenly heights he now holds us in his immortal vision, he cannot doubt our sorrow, he knows our love.

Poor Hal! How truly it may be said:

"None knew thee, but to love thee,  
None named thee, but to praise."

W. H. McCARTNEY.

Hon. Stanley Woodward.

W. P. Ryman added his testimony to the many good qualities of head and heart of Dr. Wright. He spoke of how readily the deceased brother impressed himself upon people without an effort to do so, and illustrated by the knowledge and regard the miners of a section of Colorado had for him, after he had

made a visit there. He was a thorough student, a true friend, and altogether one of the best men he ever knew.

The preamble and resolutions as prepared by Judge Dana, were then adopted by a unanimous vote, after which the meeting adjourned until 2:45, to attend the funeral.



## OSTERHOUT FREE LIBRARY.

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[At a meeting of the Trustees of the Osterhout Free Library, the following minute was read and ordered spread upon the records:]

*Resolved*, That by the death of our fellow trustee, Harrison Wright, we have been deprived not only of our most efficient member, but of an esteemed and valued friend. As well by natural aptitude as by thorough accomplishment he was singularly adapted to render good service to our joint work. Reading with equal facility the German and French languages, his knowledge of literatures was not bounded by that of his own tongue. Intimately acquainted with modern scientific thought and discovery, he was thoroughly able to distinguish between that form of scientific thought which, being confined to its legitimate bounds, is true and leads to truth, and that which, overleaping these bounds, is false and leads to error. An enthusiastic lover of books, his knowledge of them was most extensive and marked by a discriminating taste. Thus trained and equipped in the very prime of life and flower of his manhood, and

with the promise of many years of useful life before him, it is surely not extravagant to say of him in relation to the work in which we were joined:

"He was a man, take him for all in all,  
We shall not look upon his like again."

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

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[At a meeting of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, held March 9th, 1885, Mr. Frederick D. Stone, the Librarian, said:]

The duty has been assigned to me of announcing to this society the death of Dr. Harrison Wright, the secretary of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society; he died at Wilkes-Barré, on the 20th of February last, in the 35th year of his age.

To many of you present he was probably unknown, but between him and those actively engaged in the direction of our affairs, the most cordial relations existed. The feeling of respect which a personal acquaintance with him at first inspired, ripened into one of high esteem, as his scholarly attainments became known, and in his death we cannot but feel that the community at large have met with a loss as great as the inexpressible grief which has befallen his friends.

He was born at Wilkes-Barré, July 15th, 1850. Through his father, Harrison Wright, he was descended from Quaker ancestors, who settled in Burlington county, New Jersey, in 1681. From his mother he inherited the blood of some of our oldest

German settlers. In 1795, his great grandfather, Caleb Wright, emigrated to the valley of the North Branch of the Susquehanna, and in that section of our State his descendants have ever held prominent and influential rank.

Succeeding to an ample estate, it would not have been surprising had Dr. Wright availed himself of the privilege to which his social position entitled him, and contented himself with the respect which his gentlemanly bearing would have commanded in any community. He was, however, imbued with higher aims. He early manifested a love for learning and pursued his studies with a perseverance characteristic of the two races from which he had sprung. He graduated with high honors at Heidelberg, Germany, from which university he received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

Returning to America, he studied law, and was admitted to the bar in 1874. The knowledge thus gained, fitted him for some of the responsibilities afterwards imposed upon him, but the practice of the profession was distasteful to him and he turned from it and the political preferment which his friends urged him to accept, to other pursuits in which he had become interested. He was an accomplished linguist, an expert geologist and metallurgist, and an archæologist of great promise.

He devoted his time principally to the interests of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, and was elected its secretary, and personally labored in the arrangement of its collections. His frank and open manners made him a favorite with old and young, and for several years he conducted an Agassiz club of children, which had been formed in Wilkes-Barré.


His scientific pursuits were not allowed to engage his entire time. From his youth he had been an antiquarian, and historical matters always interested him. His late pamphlet on the Ashburnham MSS. attracted attention on both sides of the Atlantic. His working abilities were of the highest order. He possessed a retentive memory and untiring energy. So general was his information that no one could talk long with him without perceiving that he was a hard student. He made no ostentatious display of learning, but when a subject with which he was familiar was the topic, his thoroughness became soon apparent. His opinions were expressed with a clearness and confidence which impressed the listener with the attention he had given the matter.

Dr. Wright was a member of a number of scientific societies here and abroad. He was also a trustee of the Osterhout Free Library, and had he been spared, his experience would have aided greatly in carrying out the object of that trust.

To what heights of usefulness such a man might have attained, had he lived to a ripe age, we can but speculate. His promises were great and his services in mature years would no doubt have been all that his friends fondly expected of him. But as I understand his character, however brilliant his scientific and literary reputation might have grown, it would have given additional prominence to one feature which his career, blighted as it was by early death, still presents, and from which we may profit. I mean the example it affords to the young men of wealth and position in this country. His life should show them what opportunities for reputations and usefulness are open to those who have the means of making themselves thoroughly trained students, and who will follow unselfishly some of the higher branches of scientific or literary investigation.

Unfortunately, there are but few who choose such a course, and when one who has brought to it talents of a superior order, is stricken down on the threshold, the loss is far more than a grief to his friends and a bereavement to his family.

I therefore, Mr. President, ask that a minute, expressive of the regret with which we have heard of the death of Dr. Wright, be entered upon our records, and a copy of it be sent to the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society.



Upon motion of Dr. James J. Levick, it was  
*Resolved*, That the remarks of Mr. Stone be entered  
upon the records of the society, in place of the  
minute he had suggested, and that a copy of them be  
forwarded to the Wyoming Historical and Geological  
Society, as expressing the respect entertained for  
Dr. Wright by this society, and of the regret with  
which it has heard of his death.

## INDEX.

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	PAGE
Academy, Wilkes-Barré, Circular respecting the . . . . .	84
Administrator General of the National Library of France . . . .	88, 89
Allen, Chief Justice . . . . .	37, 41
Allen, Christopher . . . . .	22
American Entomology . . . . .	64
American Herald and General Advertiser . . . . .	33
American Journal of Science . . . . .	58, 60
Anthracite Coal . . . . .	44, 45, 46, 52, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58
Beginning of the Coal Trade . . . . .	86, 87
Discovery of . . . . .	43
Fields . . . . .	59, 105
Fossils . . . . .	60
Archæological Society of Rome . . . . .	76
Ashburnham MSS. . . . .	88, 119
Asylum Township . . . . .	74
Baltimore American . . . . .	61
Bar of Luzerne County . . . . .	99
Beach, Nathan . . . . .	60
Beardslee, Deborah . . . . .	51
Bedford, G. R. . . . .	104, 110
Benade, M. A. . . . .	47
Beryar, John . . . . .	22
Binney & Ronaldson . . . . .	54
Birde . . . . .	50
Blackman's Coal Bed . . . . .	59
Blair, Marcus . . . . .	25
Blum, Prof. . . . .	75
Booth, Ebenezer . . . . .	51
Booth, Richard . . . . .	51
Bowman's Mine . . . . .	59



Brongniart, M. A. . . . .	58, 60
Brother John, (Bishop Spangenberg) . . . . .	37
Brundage, A. R. . . . .	110
Burritt, Ensign Stephen . . . . .	51
Burritt, Peleg, Jr. . . . .	51
Burritt, William . . . . .	51
Butler, Chester . . . . .	26
Butler, Colonel . . . . .	70
Butler Coal Opening . . . . .	54
Cadwalader, Capt. . . . .	38
Cahoon, George . . . . .	62
Calamites Cistii . . . . .	60
Carey, Matthew . . . . .	33
Carey, Nathan . . . . .	70, 71
Circular of Inquiry Respecting the Old Wilkes-Barré Academy . . . . .	84
Cist, Charles . . . . .	30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 34, 38, 44, 47
Cist, Mrs. Charles . . . . .	36
Cist, Emily . . . . .	30, 74
Cist, Jacob . . . . .	30, 34,
47, 48, 50, 51, 53, 54, 55, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 65, 66, 88, 105	
Cist, Mrs. Jacob . . . . .	51, 67, 74
Cist, Mary . . . . .	38, 47
Cist, Zac. . . . .	60
Claypole, James . . . . .	22
Claypole, John . . . . .	22
Coal, Anthracite . . . . .	44, 45, 46, 52, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58
Beginning of the Coal Trade . . . . .	86, 87
Discovery of . . . . .	43
Fields . . . . .	59, 105
Fossils . . . . .	60
Columbian Magazine . . . . .	33
Conyngham, John N. . . . .	26
Cooper, Thomas . . . . .	52, 53
Covell, E. . . . .	62
Cox, Peter . . . . .	37
Cox, Rebecca . . . . .	37
Crispin, Abigail . . . . .	22
Crispin, Silas . . . . .	22
Crispin, William . . . . .	22

Dana, E. I. . . . .	26, 102, 103, 103, 104, 114
Delisle, M. . . . .	88, 89
Denison, Colonel . . . . .	70
Diamond, The, A Story of the Time of Caliph Al Mamun . . . . .	91
Discovery of Anthracite Coal . . . . .	43
Dyer, Thomas . . . . .	62
Early Printing . . . . .	85
Early Shad Fisheries of the North Branch of the Susquehanna . . . . .	82
Emblemata, or Inscriptions on Certain Noteworthy Gold and Silver Coins of German Potentates and Rulers . . . . .	89
Emporium of Arts and Sciences . . . . .	52
Evans, Oliver . . . . .	61
Fell, Jesse . . . . .	62
Fort Allen . . . . .	35, 41
Fort, Duke . . . . .	21
Forty Fort . . . . .	70
France, Administrator General of National Library of . . . . .	88, 89
Franklin, Benjamin . . . . .	72
Frenchtown . . . . .	74
Friends, Society of . . . . .	24
Fuller, H. A. . . . .	99
Fuller, Rev. Andrew . . . . .	34
Gardner, Catharine . . . . .	23
Gardner, John . . . . .	23
Genealogical and Biographical Record of the Descendants of John Jacob Weiss . . . . .	84
Gibson, Chief Justice . . . . .	52, 53
Ginter, Philip . . . . .	35, 43, 45
Ghadenhütten . . . . .	41
Granger, Mr. . . . .	48
Green, General . . . . .	38
Haines, Caleb . . . . .	23
Haines, Elizabeth . . . . .	23
Halle, University of . . . . .	31
Halleck, Captain . . . . .	24
Hawley, Elizabeth . . . . .	23
Hazard's Register . . . . .	60
Heidelberg, University of . . . . .	14, 75, 105
Hendrick, Daniel . . . . .	24

Hendrick, John . . . . .	24
Hendrick, Ellen . . . . .	24
Henry, William . . . . .	44, 45, 46
Hillegas, Michael . . . . .	44
Historical Society of Pennsylvania . . . . .	117
Hollenback & Cist . . . . .	51
Hollenback, George . . . . .	67
Hollenback, George Matson . . . . .	74
Hollenback, John . . . . .	67
Hollenback, Judge Matthias . 42, 51, 62, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 73, 74, 105	
Hollenback, Sarah . . . . .	50
Holmes, Capt. Thomas . . . . .	22
Holmes, Hester . . . . .	22
Ingham, Dr. Charles F . . . . .	87
Jasper, Margaret . . . . .	22
Jefferson, Mr. . . . .	49
Johnson, C. Ben . . . . .	13
Johnson, President . . . . .	25
Jones, D. M . . . . .	25
Jones, Eleanor . . . . .	67
Kidder, Luther . . . . .	26
Koch, Peter Lawson . . . . .	37
Kulp, Geo. B. . . . .	18
Lee, Washington . . . . .	62
Lehigh Coal Company . . . . .	55
Lehigh Coal Mine Company . . . . .	35, 44, 45, 46
Lehigh Coal & Navigation Company . . . . .	44, 46
Lehigh Navigation & Coal Company . . . . .	58
Literary Magazine . . . . .	49
Lutheran Church . . . . .	36
Luzerne County Agricultural Society . . . . .	62
McCartney, General W. H. . . . .	112, 113
McClintock, Andrew T., L. L. D. . . . .	76, 106
McCullough, Mr. . . . .	62
Madison, Mrs. . . . .	49
Manuscripts, Ashburnham Collection . . . . .	88
Barrois Collection . . . . .	89
Libri Collection . . . . .	88
Maxwell, Vohney L. . . . .	87

Melsheimer, Mr. . . . .	64
Memorandum Description of the Finer Specimens of Earthenware Pots in Collection of Wyoming Historical and Geological Society . . . . .	82
Messemer, Samuel . . . . .	63
Mifflin, General . . . . .	38
Mifflin, Governor . . . . .	45
Miller, Henry . . . . .	32, 33
Miner, Chas. . . . .	49, 51, 55
Miner, Wm. P. . . . .	87
Minister of Public Instruction and Fine Arts . . . . .	89
Moravian Chapel . . . . .	42
National Library of France, Administrator General of . . . .	88, 89
Neiser, Rev. George . . . . .	38
Neuropteris Cistii . . . . .	60
Nicholson, Horatio W. . . . .	26
Nicholson, John . . . . .	44
North Branch Canal . . . . .	28
Observations on Many MSS. of the Barrois Collection . . . .	89
Observations on the very Ancient MSS. of the Libri Collection .	88
O'Connor, John . . . . .	33
Osterhout Free Library . . . . .	108, 115, 119
Osterhout, Isaac S. . . . .	78
Packer, Samuel I. . . . .	55
Paine, Thomas . . . . .	32
Papal Club . . . . .	76
Pearce, James . . . . .	60
Pecopteris Cistii . . . . .	60
Penn, William . . . . .	21, 22, 105
Pennsylvania, Historical Society of . . . . .	117
Pennsylvanischer Staatsbote, . . . . .	32
Philippe, Louis . . . . .	74
Pickering, Timothy . . . . .	72
Pike, Dorothy . . . . .	24
Pike, John . . . . .	24
Polk, James K. . . . .	25
Porter, Governor . . . . .	74
Port Folio . . . . .	50
Prospect Rock . . . . .	71